

# WIZO Review



Spring - Summer 2014 ■ No. 334

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**Recruiting Generation Y**  
Insights from the MOR

**Interview with Diana Schnabel**  
A conversation on Jewish life in Germany

**WIZO Kagan Centre**  
A voice for Jerusalem's youth



Dear Chaverot,

This magazine will only be on-line, so please try to direct as many chaverot as possible to the link on our website. The next magazine will be printed and mailed for Rosh Hashana.

We start this issue with a comprehensive report (pages 8-11) by Jill Shaw, Chair of WIZOUk, of the Meeting of

Representatives (MOR) which took place in January. There was fun, laughter – and very serious business as we sat down to discuss and brainstorm about future strategies for WIZO.

Our intrepid assistant editor Zohar Friedman has been out in the field these past few months, visiting various projects and learning and feeling ‘What is our WIZO all about.’

Zohar’s first article (on page 12) covers the myriad activities of WIZO Israel’s Tel Aviv branch, including a ‘warm home’ for teenage girls, a single parents’ group and a weekly craft day for pensioners. Their beautiful knits and other hand-made items are sold for the benefit of WIZO.

Zohar found the WIZO Helena Kagan Centre for Youth and Communications in Jerusalem a hive of activity – ably run by the energetic and indomitable Yochai Rotenberg. The centre is a magnet for youth from all over Jerusalem who find a home away from home – a place where they can find a sympathetic ear. Read all about it on page 17.

WIZO Hadera’s Leadership course for young girls opens the eyes of teenagers from low socio-economic backgrounds to a different world – a world where they can have ambitions and be high-level achievers – they just have to set their goals. Read this inspiring article on page 20.

In a revealing interview, WIZO Germany’s President Diana Schnabel describes growing up in post-war Germany, the attitude of the Jewish community today – and the strong commitment of WIZO Germany. (p.14)

Our dynamic Aviv representative to the World WIZO Executive, Laurienne Baitz has made such an impact, everybody wants her! On page 23 she describes her present and future globetrotting to encourage and IGNITE younger WIZO members and a call to all Avivs to join her at the international Aviv Seminar in Tel Aviv at the beginning of November.

Our Organisation and Tourism Division articles spotlight the role of Israelis abroad and how they interact with the Jewish communities and how to attract the younger generation (Generation Y) to WIZO. (Page 24)

Although we have some years to go before WIZO celebrates its centenary in 2020, there were some women’s Zionist organisations which pre-dated WIZO and subsequently joined our movement. Most notable were those in South Africa – and a glance at the reports of the South African Federation in WIZO Around the World show WIZO Pretoria’s 113<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, Johannesburg’s 100<sup>th</sup>, Durban’s 80<sup>th</sup> and Capetown’s 112<sup>th</sup>. Mazaltov to the South African Jewish community for their long-term commitment! WIZO Around the World, showcasing all the wonderful work of the federations, starts on page 30.

Enjoy reading!

*Ingrid*

Ingrid Rockberger  
Editor



One of the Florida husbands celebrating Yom Ha’atzmaut with the children at the Pilavin Gates Day Care Centre in Rishon Le Zion

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Cover photo by Tzachi Vazana: Students at WIZO Nachlat Yehuda School celebrate Shavuot

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## President's Desk



Dear Chaverot

I am writing to you in the days of the Counting of the Omer, between Pesach when we were freed physically from slavery, and Shavuot when we were liberated spiritually. The day God gave the **Torah** to the entire nation of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai, he bestowed upon us our religious, social and national identity. He also gave us a precious heritage: the Land of Israel.

After 2000 years in exile, the People of Israel returned to their homeland and what it has achieved in 66 years of independence is absolutely amazing and unique.

Israel is the largest immigrant absorbing nation on Earth and in 66 years, its Jewish population has grown ten fold from 600,000 to 6.2 million. That means that there is one Jew living in Israel for every Jew that perished in the Holocaust – that is Israel's true triumph and victory.

Israel is a glorious mosaic of ancient and modern – a country with a state-of-the-art panorama, but rich with historical and archeological sites; Israel is multi-cultural – preserving original traditions while creating a new Israeli identity. Israel's agriculture is one of the most advanced in the world - China and countries in Africa are today seeking to imitate it.

Israel's scientific research institutions are ranked third in the world; Israel is ranked second in space sciences and is one of the ten countries in the world capable of launching its own satellites, Israel is among the top three countries in cyber-attack defense.

In 66 years, 12 Israelis have received a Nobel Prize - more Nobel Prizes per capita than the USA, France and Germany. Israel leads the world in patents for medical equipment and Israel has one of the best healthcare systems in the world according to OECD.

Israel has the third highest rate of entrepreneurship amongst women in the world; women Research & Development (R&D) workers in Israel are approximately 23.4% of that workforce, placing Israel in second place behind Denmark; women have earned 37% of all degrees granted in science and engineering in Israel, one of the highest proportions in the world.

Since its establishment 94 years ago, WIZO has worked tirelessly to improve Israel's society through equal education, empowerment and the advancement of women's rights. By making the impossible possible, WIZO has inspired hundreds of thousands of children, youth and women to reach for the sky, to dream and to realize their visions and plans.

Children and youth from underprivileged homes have found a secure and nurturing environment in WIZO that allowed them to reach their full potential, so they can become productive members of society. Each youth that graduates from WIZO's educational system, not only looks forward to a better future, but is able to help improve his/her family's situation in the present. WIZO youth are able to share the tools and skills they acquire with their siblings, who often follow them into our WIZO educational system. Through WIZO they are exposed to possibilities that were otherwise so far out of their reach.

Every law WIZO promotes and lobbies for the advancement of women, each project that helps empower women adds another layer to the social fabric of our society that benefits women in the present and girls and teenagers in the future.

You, my dear chaverot are full partners to our blessed work. We may be spread across the globe and thousands of kilometres separate us, but we have one heart that beats in unity for WIZO, the people, the land and the State of Israel.

Affectionately,

*Tova Ben-Dov*

Tova Ben-Dov  
President World WIZO

## Chairperson's Column



Dear Chaverot,

It is said that 'Life is an Echo. What you send out comes back, what you sow you reap, what you give you get.'

As the summer holiday rapidly approaches, thousands of 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are poring over books and papers, as they prepare to take their end-of-school examinations and matriculation examinations. When those are over, they will leave their desks and their lockers, and go out into the world. Most will don the IDF uniform, ready to defend our tiny State of Israel.

It is after they leave our schools and youth villages that we will begin to see the results of what we gave them: we will begin to reap what we have sown.

So what exactly have we given them during the time they were under our WIZO care?

As a leader in youth village education we have played a key role in meeting the needs of our children, whatever those needs may be. We have nurtured immigrant children, as well as children from families in crisis. We have given a home to children at risk who have been referred by social service agencies around Israel. We have provided their everyday needs as well as encouraging them to maintain strong positive relationships with parents and siblings.

In our WIZO schools and youth villages, we have woken them up to life, to the mysteries of life, to the problems of life and how to solve those problems, regardless of the backgrounds they have come from. We have woken them up to the fact that we human beings can create alternatives to obstacles. We have woken them up to their physical, mental, spiritual and social potential.

We are sending them out knowing that education is a life-long process. We have offered them the chance of excellence in education. Education is the development of society. Education is direction. Education is growth.

They came to our WIZO youth villages as children, and we have recognized their individuality and the natural abilities in each and every one of them. They leave us as adults, fuelled with the desire to fulfill their potential, committed to working for communities with love and harmony.

They will give us back us everything we have given them.

After all, life is an echo.

With warm WIZO regards,

*Rivka Lazovsky*

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky  
Chairperson  
World WIZO Executive

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Special Projects  
**Tricia Schwitzer**

## Three Cheers for WIZO Florida!

The past few months have seen several dedications and openings of renovations and new WIZO projects – and out of five items featured on these two pages, the first three are thanks to WIZO Florida.

### Opening the Ivcher Dormitory

There was excitement and euphoria in the air as a large delegation from WIZO Florida and members of the World WIZO Executive were present at the official opening of the Ivcher Dormitory in WIZO Nir Ha'emek School, which will provide housing for 60 students. The funds for the extensive renovations were obtained through WIZO Florida.

On a beautiful winter morning in January, guests were treated on arrival to a delicious breakfast featuring cheeses from the school's dairy. WIZO Nir Ha'emek's police cadet academy provided a

guard of honour as the dormitory was officially opened. Excitedly, guests went from room to room looking at the wonderful new facilities. As it was Friday, in the baking area of one of the new clubrooms challa dough was ready and participants kneaded, plaited and baked challot for Shabbat.

WIZO USA Vice President Judit Groisman gave an emotional address saying that "all the chaverot work so hard and come from so far away – and today, to see the result of our work, it could not be better!"



WIZO Nir Ha'emek's police cadets form the guard of honour



Delicious cheeses from WIZO Nir Ha'emek's dairy

### Four New Playgrounds!

Four new playgrounds were recently dedicated at the Pilavin Gates Day Care Centre in Rishon le Zion generously donated by WIZO Florida in honour of: Itschak and Anita Friedman, the Bensayag and Bursztyn families, the WIZO Zorahat Group, and Boris (Beines) Lekach.

The group from WIZO Florida – accompanied by some of their husbands – had just come from the March of the Living in Poland marking the darkest hour in the history of the Jewish people.

All were uplifted by the children of the day care centre who greeted them with special I love WIZO Florida T-shirts. To celebrate Israel's 66<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the entire day care centre was 'dressed' in

blue and white and in each classroom everyone joined the children in song and dance – and best of all – the husbands joined in too!



Celebrating Israel's Independence Day with the children of the day care centre

### Youth Centre Opened at Nitzan

On the first day of Hol Hamoed Pesach, in the presence of Housing Minister MK Uri Ariel, members of the Moskowitz and Falic families, World WIZO Executive members, distinguished guests and residents of Nitzan, the magnificent youth centre donated by the Irving Moskowitz Foundation was dedicated.

Four hundred families, who were evacuated from Gush Katif as part of the Gaza disengagement plan in 2005 were resettled in this kibbutz whose history goes back to 1942. Gradually, new homes are being built, as the community continues to rehabilitate itself.

The Moskowitz family was represented by their son Rabbi Daniel Moskowitz, his wife Debbie, children and grandchildren. Rabbi Moskowitz with Jana Falic, Co-President of WIZO USA, unveiled the name at the front of the building, cut the ribbon and unveiled the plaque in the entrance.

Rabbi Daniel Moskowitz expressed his delight and honour to be present, and was only sorry that his parents were not well enough to participate. "The last nine years have been



(l to r) Tova Ben-Dov, Rabbi Daniel and Debbie Moskowitz, Simon Falic, Housing Minister Uri Ariel, Rivka Lazovsky, Jana Falic

very hard for the residents of Nitzan, as they have tried to rebuild their lives. This magnificent centre will provide a 'home' for them to gather for activities and leadership courses."

The ceremony ended with a rousing rendition of the Hatikvah, followed by the release of blue-and-white balloons by the children.

### Dedications at the Rebecca Sieff Centre

The renovations of two special halls at the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family were dedicated and officially opened during the Meeting of Representatives. The first was the sports hall which was dedicated in the name of Dame Simone Prendergast, niece of Rebecca Sieff and a staunch supporter of WIZOuk. The plaque was unveiled by her cousins, two of Rebecca Sieff's granddaughters Micaela Ziv and Sarah Meron, both of whom volunteer at the Kagan Youth Centre in Jerusalem. Sarah read a message from Simone's sister, Ann in South Africa: 'Simone was an exceptional person. She was kind, talented, beautiful and elegant. Her life was dedicated to helping people.' Sarah described her cousin as 'somebody with a presence that came not only from her height and dignified elegance, but also very much from her inner being shining through.'

The second hall was dedicated in the name of Lottie Frazer, long-time devoted WIZOuk member, who recently died in



Micaela Ziv (l) and Sarah Meron cutting the ribbon at the entrance to the hall dedicated in the name of Dame Simone Prendergast

her 90s. Lottie was a Holocaust survivor and had no children of her own but always described WIZO as her children. WIZO was her life. Lottie founded and ran the WIZO choir in London for some 30 years and arranged many musical outings. The choir was finally disbanded after 40 years. Marian Lewis, the choir's long-time conductor spoke emotionally about Lottie, ending with "I miss the music, I miss Lottie."

### Vienna Municipality Supporting WIZO

The Jesse Rubins Day Care Centre, situated in the disadvantaged neighbourhood of Kiryat Moshe in Rehovot, recently entertained some special guests. Under the sponsorship of WIZO Austria, the Municipality of Vienna has financed extensive renovations to the centre. The occasion on this day was to celebrate the completion of three playgrounds, and the unveiling of the plaque for the playground of the kindergarten class, generously donated by the City of Vienna.

Representing the Municipality of Vienna was Director of the International Affairs Department, Dr. Wawra, his wife and Dr. Wawra's deputy Mrs. Sylvia Friederich Bankl. They were accompanied by WIZO Austria President Dr Hava Bugajer, WIZO Austria Executive member Rita Dauber, World WIZO Chairperson Rivka Lazovsky and members of the World WIZO Executive.



(l to r) Hava Bugajer, Dr Wawra, Rivka Lazovsky, Mrs Wawra, Mrs. Sylvia Friederich Bankl in front of the plaque honouring the City of Vienna

# A Powerhouse of Women

**Dedicated, committed, vibrant, powerful and impressive women: WIZO representatives from all over the world gather in Tel Aviv to discuss contemporary issues and visit WIZO projects**

Jill Shaw, Chair of WIZOUk



The end of the wonderful day in Jerusalem



Opening night: David, husband of WIZO UK Chairman Jill Shaw in the spirit of the evening with the WIZO chaverot and the dance troupe of Nachlat Yehuda

Before the MOR [Meeting of Representatives], federation presidents had sent suggestions to the World WIZO Executive to change some of the routine format of past years. These proposals were implemented where possible – starting with the very first evening. Instead of the opening being in the hotel, we travelled to WIZO Nachlat Yehuda Youth Village for dinner and the opening evening's celebrations. As we hugged and kissed each other in the hotel lobby prior to departure, the warmth radiated reminded us all that this worldwide sisterhood is one of WIZO's greatest assets.

Two dormitory pupils from Nahalal, Natasha, a Naaleh student from Belarus, and Liora from Dimona, were compères for the evening. The atmosphere was set by the heart-warming dancing and singing by students from our youth villages.

However, the stars of the evening was a group of former dormitory students who described their arrival at our WIZO schools and the warmth, encouragement and strength they had received, enabling each of them to achieve their

dreams. Some of them have returned to their school to teach and counsel the present teenagers.

## Down to business

The next morning we got down to the business side of the conference with the statutory reports and presentations. First up was a rousing performance by the children of the WIZO Nir Ha'emek school choir; indeed every day started with a short performance from our talented youngsters.

It was very special to have Honorary Life President **Raya Jaglom** with us. She recalled WIZO's founder Rebecca Sieff and other past presidents in whose footsteps she followed. How we marvel at her powers of recall and we wish her good health for many years to come.

Past President **Helena Glaser** told us a story about the late Ariel Sharon: as a youngster he had been ploughing the fields, and complained to his mother that there was still so much to do – to which his mother retorted, "look at what you have done..."

We could say the same about WIZO. We have done so much yet we know there is still so much to do to address and improve the lives of so many disadvantaged children and adults in Israel today.

World WIZO President **Tova Ben-Dov** highlighted world events during the past twelve months, which included the passing of Nelson Mandela. He once said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

WIZO certainly takes such sentiments to heart and translates them into actuality in our day care centres, schools, youth villages and services for young people. Tova reminded us that one third of Israel's population is officially poor, Israel's elderly are the poorest in the Western world and there is more violence in Israeli society...all of which presents greater demands on WIZO's services – but sadly – we can't help everyone.

## WIZO's strategic plan

Our World WIZO Chairperson **Rivka Lazovsky** acknowledged the sad passing of illustrious prominent WIZO members during the last twelve months, including her own dear mother, Anita Jamitovsky, who had imbued in her the love for WIZO.

Rivka proudly told us that World WIZO is on track with our three-year strategic plan: in 2012 the deficit was halted, last year resources were re-organised as with centralised purchasing, and now we are on track for the 2014 3<sup>rd</sup> stage, which is to examine the organisational structure of WIZO and all our programmes in the light of government cuts in subsidies.

Her all-encompassing address incorporated so many if not all of WIZO's fantastic activities.

Here, on behalf of all the federations, I would like to congratulate **Gila Oshrat**, Chairperson of WIZO Israel and all the Israeli members for achieving so much this year both in their efforts to improve Israeli women's social position and gender equality, helping 4,400 children at risk during 2013 and for their branches' magnificent fundraising efforts.

We applaud the wide variety of their social welfare programmes and envy them their opportunities to help at grass roots! The federations' partnership with you is of the utmost importance.

## Money matters

World WIZO Treasurer **Atara Ilani's** masterful address on the budget for 2014 gave us an insight into the massive responsibility of her department and we are most grateful to her whole team for their success in submitting the draft budget to the federations in advance of the MOR, for the first time. To present a balanced budget for 2014 is the way forward and we know we have a big part to play in helping to ensure that this happens by sending you our commitment and even more if possible.

## Aviv – our future

**Laurienne Baitz**, Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive, gave a spirited presentation on 'The Voice of Aviv', giving us a multitude of ideas to consider when endeavouring to bring more young members into WIZO. We are all aware of how hard we must work to ensure WIZO's continuity.

Director General **Igal Dekel** stressed that WIZO has to adjust its activities to take into account reduced government subsidies. It was important to hear **Anat ben Baruch** talk about plans for some projects to be self-financing and we look forward to hearing how these worthwhile plans proceed and succeed.



(1 to r) Rivka Lazovsky, Tova Ben-Dov with Knesset speaker Yuli Edelstein

## Meeting of Representatives 2014



The 'Group Photo' outside the Knesset



Serious brainstorming: Building our WIZO Future Together



For the presentation of work plans each Division Chairperson presented just one of their activities. Congratulations to **Ingrid Rockberger, WIZO Review Editor**, who carefully controlled the timing of this session and to the dedicated chairpersons who adhered to the restrictions! This was a much-improved session on previous MORs enabling us to learn about some of the programmes in greater detail.

### Out on tour

During Tuesday's touring day we were full to bursting with admiration for WIZO at work and with emotion by our being in Israel's heart, Jerusalem! Having visited Modiin in its earliest days of development, it is great to see what an important part WIZO plays in early age education of its youngest citizens. How we admire the expert care and love given by the day care centres' staff and the warm happy environment in which the children flourish.

The visit to the Knesset was memorable. **Speaker Yuli Edelstein** received us so generously. He hopes that eventually there will be no need for the political parties to be obligated to put women on their lists because so many will be elected without this contrivance. The present number of women MKs may not meet WIZO Israel's aims, but we certainly appreciated the quality of MKs Shuli Maalem-Refaeli, Penina Tamanu-Shata and Michal Biran who joined one very supportive male MK – Nachman Shai – to discuss gender equality, with MK Aliza Lavie, Chairperson of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women in the chair. A lively discussion ensued between the MOR delegates and the MKs on the importance of female leadership in the Diaspora and its contribution to strengthening the Diaspora-Israel relationship.

### Lunch cooked by our own chefs

Lunch at the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family was most memorable particularly because the tasty buffet had been prepared by students studying culinary skills in the vocational training school together with the chefs for the school and day care centre.

These teenagers have dropped out of mainstream education and are referred to the school by the social services. There

are wonderful results due to the intensive care and attention they receive individually, helping them to overcome their difficulties and almost all of them gain their Bagrut and go on to serve in the army.

The Rebecca Sieff Centre was formerly the Jerusalem Baby Home and we heard Eli Tal El's moving story of how he spent the first three years of his life in the home after his mother died and his father couldn't cope with caring for his five children.

### Services to our youth

Teaching the next generation to become leaders is the task in hand at the Haberer Centre. These articulate teenagers, speaking fluent English, impressed us greatly. They learn their skills whilst working with younger people.

We also heard from Dr Michal Rotem about the Resilience programme which is helping 1,150 young people in WIZO's six youth villages how to cope in stressful and crisis situations. Thank you so much to Jana and Simon Falic for their most generous invitation to dinner in a magical location overlooking the lights of Jerusalem...a night and day to remember!

### Division presentations

The Fundraising Division's session was excellent and we will all be showing the three short moving films about Mell, Oshra and Adi. The material and concept for 'Sponsor A Youth' is beautifully prepared and is an extremely good aid for our income raising activities. We congratulate **Esther Mor** and her volunteer and professional team!

**Janine Gelley** presented the Organisation and Tourism Division's work and introduced **Ofer Yarom** who gave us fascinating insights into successful advertising campaigns which capture the interest of WIZO's vital target age group of 20-30 year olds. Similar techniques can also be effective for older age groups: we should be using humour in our approach, selling an experience and updating our language - what a lot to learn!

**Adi Balderman** entertainingly got us all thinking how best

to sell WIZO verbally to both unknown people and friends whom we want to support and join WIZO.

**Zipi Amiri** outlined the work of the Publicity & Communications Division and during this session we all enjoyed **Yaniv Levyatan's** lively address on how to get people to click through to our website.

### Building our future

WIZO Hadassim's steel band got us all in an upbeat mood before commencing the afternoon round-table brainstorming session on "Building our WIZO Future Together."

It is to be hoped that the subsequent analysis will help World WIZO prepare the strategic plan for the next few years in the focus areas of marketing, fundraising, membership and working together with the federations.

Despite the hour, the doughty delegates attended regional meetings after a minimal break and enjoyed the opportunity of discussing matters of mutual interest together.

### Finale speakers

**Prof. Manuel Trachtenberg**, who chaired the government appointed Committee for Social and Economic Change, gave us an insight into the problems of Israel's fragmented society.

**Johanna Landau**, founder of Kinetis, gave us an outstanding and fluent picture of how Israel is perceived in the wider unaffiliated populations around the world. It is not a question of speaking to the committed or to the strongly, anti-Israel faction. It is more important that we aim for the larger percentage who appear to be indifferent to Israel. We must all try to speak about positive aspects of Israeli life and matters of global interest. In WIZO we have one of the most positive messages to pass on.

The final session focused on 'Women in Jewish Leadership Roles,' moderated by **Dr Einat Wilf** and **Shmuel Rozner**, both from the Jewish People Policy Institute in Jerusalem. There were lively and perceptive insights from the heads

of several federations, all of which gave much food for thought, particularly with regards to the role of the younger generation.

The official – and befitting – end to the proceedings was punctuated by the rousing music and marching of the students of the Police Academy from WIZO Nir Haemek School and Youth Village.

### Conclusion

We had intensive days, early starts and late finishes. Our emotions are strained, but oh how we need this rush of adrenalin – this annual infusion of motivation and enthusiasm – it's infectious and renews our spirit and determination to draw others into the compelling world of WIZO.

Thank you to Rivka and the whole team for everything you have done to make this one of the best MORs ever. We'll be back...



World WIZO  
Honorary Life  
President  
Raya Jaglom

# WIZO's Tel Aviv Branch Spreads Across the City

**From the young to the old and everyone in between, WIZO Tel Aviv takes care of Tel Avivians of every creed and colour**

Zohar Friedman

In operation for over 80 years, the Tel Aviv branch of WIZO Israel is one of the oldest WIZO branches in the country. Today, led by Chairperson Meira Drori, the branch has five clubs: in Ramat Aviv, Arlozorov St., Montefiore St., Yad Eliyahu and Jaffa, all of which conduct numerous welfare and community outreach activities in coordination with the Tel Aviv Municipality and WIZO Israel. Some of these services include single parents' groups, women's empowerment groups, enrichment for the elderly, activities for children and a number of initiatives for girls-at-risk.

The branch also runs over 50 extended-day afterschool programmes for children ages 3-6 in order to help working mothers who need day-care for the entire workday. To further promote the status of women, the branch also offers legal advice through the women's leadership course and through a legal office that provides legal aid and services to women and couples in the areas of personal status and work-related problems.

There are numerous local community 'homegroups,' where participants meet regularly at the home of a WIZO member for meetings which include a speaker, discussions, cookery demonstrations and more. Some of these groups have been in existence for many years and members form strong personal friendships. WIZO Tel Aviv is also proud to host a 200-member French-speakers' group who meet for various activities, including Hebrew conversation practice.

To help finance its activities, the branch runs four highly-successful second-hand shops that sell gently-used and vintage clothing as well as household and miscellaneous items. In addition, large fundraising events are held across the city throughout the year.

Below are three special examples of the unique and innovative community services run by WIZO Tel Aviv.

## Warm Home

Every Sunday, Monday and Thursday, approximately 15 at-risk girls from as young as 12½ to 17-years-old arrive at the WIZO Club in Jaffa. For Racheli Shalev, the young social worker charged with running WIZO's Warm Home project, this alone constitutes a victory. When they first opened the project for the 2013-14 school year, getting the girls to show up was a challenge. Now, the girls trickle in three times a week at around 2:00 in the afternoon, some

grinning and holding hands, other visibly distressed and in need of advice, a hug, a hot meal and a listening ear – all of which they readily receive.

The girls, who are usually referred to the programme by their teachers, social workers or school guidance counsellors, all come from difficult backgrounds, which include problematic home lives, poverty, social, emotional and integration problems at school, as well as behavioural problems and academic underperformance. In order to qualify for the Warm Home programme, the girls must all have an open file at the Welfare Ministry.

Warm Home, Racheli explains, is not a treatment centre, it's a safe alternative to the girls' likely path – "wandering the streets." While Racheli doesn't provide the girls with treatment, she works hard to provide them with structure and support. For enrichment, Racheli regularly organizes workshops with visiting teachers on everything from self-defence to belly dancing, art, fashion and makeup. She also regularly holds group discussions with the girls about pressing issues facing them – everything from bullying and respecting one another to appropriate relationships with boys and respecting and understanding their bodies.

The 'House Mum' of the club, a woman also called Rachel who everyone prefers to call 'Ima,' explains that there is no patronizing. Everyone is at the same level. The adults and volunteers lead by example, modelling appropriate



Warm Home 'Ima' (r) and social worker Racheli Shalev

behaviour and forging meaningful, healthy relationships with the girls. At the end of the day, the girls are just that – girls, and that's how the staff and volunteers at Warm Home see them, as young women who simply haven't had all of their needs met – until now.

## Craft day for pensioners

The women who gather at the weekly craft day at the WIZO Club in Ramat Aviv include Holocaust survivors and women who helped build the State of Israel. Now, although most are well into their 70s and 80s and long retired, the women still haven't retired from supporting Israel: the products of their weekly craft days – which include colourful dolls, hats, scarves, toys and other hand-made items – are sold for the benefit of WIZO.

Riva, the volunteer coordinator, attributes the project's success to the fact that it does not only allow the volunteer retirees to give back to Israel, but it enriches their lives as well. With a background of piano music, (expertly played by a volunteer pianist), the women sip coffee and talk to old friends as they expertly turn bits of fabric and piles of yarn into ornately knitted blouse collars and exquisite children's dolls. With their children grown up and some of them widows, the weekly meeting gives them structure, purpose and community.



Ramat Aviv WIZO club members at their weekly craft meeting

Mali Kaftori, an 86-year-old who has been with WIZO for the past 20 years, explains that: "No one volunteers without getting anything back. It's always a give and take. When asked what she gets back, the list is numerous: "I get company. I get the chance to do work for something greater. I get lots of satisfaction. I get the chance to create."

The Ramat Aviv Craft Day is a shining example of the spirit of volunteerism at the core of WIZO's success. Everything is donated – both the materials and the skill and time.

## Single parents' club

Yusra and Adi are only two of approximately 60 single parents who meet every Tuesday at the WIZO Jaffa Club. The support group, which started approximately 20 years ago, is a resource for struggling single mothers and fathers, most of whom are widowers or divorcees. Not only does it provide its members with practical tools to help address the challenges of single parenting, it also gives them moral support, friendship and a sense of community.

Every Tuesday is different: some days, the club celebrates religious holidays, both Jewish and Muslim; other days,

speakers are invited to present a topic to the group; while other days, the group meets simply for the joy of company, sitting together late into the night. More than one participant explained that their children have long understood that Tuesday nights are not up for discussion.

Yusra, an Arab woman who has been with the club since its inception, was married at 16 and widowed by 29 when her husband passed away and left her to raise their four children alone. Desperate, Yusra knew that she needed support to help get her and her children through this transition. As a single Arab woman in the early 1990s, joining a mixed group for Arabs and Jews was controversial. But once Yusra realized that the club could meet her needs as a single mother, she cast public opinion aside and joined.

A community leader in her own right, Yusra encouraged other Arab women to attend. Understanding the special needs of this population, a social worker at the centre created a smaller group within the auspices of the larger club especially for Arab women, who received special workshops on sex education and political women's leadership. Additionally, a social worker helped Yusra better support her children through this time, especially her son, who was haunted by the death of his father.

Adi, a quieter woman who escaped domestic violence, was at rock bottom when she joined the group. Forty-years-old, divorced, overworked and underpaid, Adi describes herself as extremely vulnerable and unable to act for herself. Referred to the club by her children's day care centre, the club helped her build self-confidence. It offered her specific resources on how to be a better mother, and also turned her towards self-defence instruction and a computer course to learn professional skills. Adi has benefited so much from the club that she now volunteers there, especially with at-risk girls through the Warm Home programme.

Together with WIZO's 22 day care centres spread across the city and the numerous social services provided by WIZO Israel, there is no doubt that WIZO contributes greatly to the welfare of the citizens of Tel Aviv.



At WIZO Tel Aviv's Single Parent Club in Jaffa. (l to r) Meira Drori, Yusra, Adi, Rachel the house mother

**Editor's note: WR Assistant Editor Zohar Friedman was so impressed by the 'warm home' for teenage girls at risk, she volunteers there one afternoon a week.**

# Meeting Germany's Jews

**In an in-depth interview, WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel discusses the emerging Jewish community in Germany – the fastest growing in the world – and how she's keeping WIZO's finger on its pulse**

Zohar Friedman

"Today, my children say they are German Jews," explains Diana Schnabel, President of WIZO Germany, "whereas I used to say I am a Jew living in Germany." Diana is describing the changing identity of Jews in Germany – or German Jews – a small but significant distinction that touches at the very heart of the self-identification issue facing the community. Today, amid a host of changes – a considerable influx of post-Soviet Jews, a favourable economic climate, and the emerging infrastructure for Jewish life including schools, synagogues and communal organisations – the Jewish community does not merely exist in Germany, it is truly thriving and growing.

As the child of Polish Holocaust survivors, a German citizen and a passionate but critical Zionist, there is no better person to acquaint us with this community-in-transition, its burgeoning identity and the role WIZO does – and can – play in this revival of Jewish life.

## A post-war childhood

"Growing up as a Jew in Germany was something special," Diana Schnabel says of her childhood – which although special, was not at all simple.

Before moving to Germany as a toddler, Diana lived briefly in both Poland – the country of her birth – and Israel, where her family moved in 1956, just at the outbreak of the Suez Crisis. By 1958, the young family moved to Germany after Diana's father accepted a compelling job offer.

But Israel always remained in the family's heart. Her parents were deeply haunted by the knowledge that "had Israel existed, their lives would have been different." The home was strongly Zionist, with Diana and her brother participating in the local Zionist youth movements. They were also instilled with strong Jewish values, such as *tzedaka* (charity). "No matter how little we had, my parents always gave to *tzedaka*."

As Diana speaks, a picture begins to emerge of a young Jewish family in transition: the parents raising their children to speak Polish, love Israel, value justice, have a deep understanding of Jewish values and culture, and all the while absorbing

German language and culture from their surroundings. Growing up in this myriad of languages, cultures and often conflicting feelings did not always impact Diana and her brother positively. "When we were young, I was maybe 15 or 16, we accused our parents: 'How could you have come back here? How could you have raised us here?'"



Diana Schnabel

Today, however, Diana's perspective has changed: growing up in such close proximity – both geographically and temporally – to one of the most horrific crimes committed against the Jewish people, filled Diana and her contemporaries with a finely tuned moral compass and the conviction to speak up in the face of injustice. "We were brought up as fighters. We were told to voice our opinions. If there is injustice, we must speak up. This is very typical of my generation. I'm not afraid of anyone. I say what I think. Growing up as a Jew in Germany – it is something special."

One example stands out: "In 1986, there was a big protest about an anti-Semitic play. I was among a group that stormed the theatre, we occupied the stage, we spoke up. I was WIZO Aviv then and WIZO had an important role in activating the protest. We rallied the WIZO women to get involved. Self-dependency was – and still is – very important for Jews in Germany."

## Germany's emerging Jewish community

When asked about the long-term viability of a Jewish community in Germany, Diana says, "I see a future in my children's generation. Many of the younger ones who study abroad come back. They find jobs – the economic situation



Diana attending a WIZO Berlin Gala evening. (l to r) Jaqueline Rosenkranz, Dagmar Schwarzer, Simone Graumann, Michal Geleman, Maya Urseanu, Diana Schnabel, Annie Karolinski-Donig, Marina Polewski, Tatiana Friedberg-Semmler

here is one of the best. It's not difficult to raise a nice family – and we have all the facilities for Jewish life."

Furthermore, Diana points out, the numbers are compelling. "The Russian Jewish immigration to Germany in the 1990s raised the Jewish population from around 35,000 to around 100,000."

While the melding of the German Jewish and Russian Jewish groups wasn't seamless, there are signs that the two groups are beginning to constitute one strong, cohesive community. "It will take time, but it's happening. I think the Russian immigration is very positive. We have communities that didn't exist before – and that's thanks to the Russian Jews."

As an important institution in the Jewish community, WIZO women were involved in assisting Russian Jews integrate into Germany. One incident in particular stands out, when newly arriving Russian families, temporarily living in hotels in Frankfurt, made a plea for assistance in caring for their children during after school hours. "Within two weeks, we [WIZO chaverot] organized a hot meal for the kids in the Jewish community centre. We helped them do homework and waited with them until their parents could pick them up. This was WIZO. We continued until they had everything they needed – until the schools caught up to accommodate them and the families found apartments of their own."

## The changing face of WIZO Germany

Similar to the changes facing the larger community, the attitudes of WIZO Germany chaverot have also undergone something of a revolution – both in how they fit into the larger WIZO family and how they self-identify.

"In 1961, after WIZO Germany was re-established after the Second World War, the federation's first executives were not officially introduced at WIZO conferences, and were

not given official name tags or placements," Diana explains, underlining early discomfort in the WIZO establishment that a federation in Germany would exist at all.

Similarly, WIZO Germany chaverot struggled with their connection to Germany. "When I came to the Aviv seminar in 1993 with my friend Mirjam Kon, we refused to hold the German flag and to represent Germany – and that was typical. Instead, we composed a song for the Aviv Seminar to the tune of Hallelujah and we held the WIZO flag."

Before becoming WIZO Germany President in 2011, Diana served as vice president for eight years – during which she credits her predecessor, Rachel Singer, for involving her extensively. By 2012, as president of WIZO Germany, Diana, whose term ends in 2015, recalls: "It was very emotional but it felt alright for me to stand in front of the German flag at the 2012 EGM."

But if Diana, as the daughter of Holocaust survivors internalizes some of the complicated symbolism at work in identifying as German, emerging Avivs are much less affected by such inner qualms. "Our Aviv representatives nowadays hold the German flag as all the other Avivs do with their own national flags. This is what happens with the course of time. But you can imagine how emotional I get about this issue. Being a daughter of Holocaust survivors has made my life very special living in Germany, and it's also one of the reasons for my love and dedication to both Israel and WIZO."

## WIZO for me

Diana was 'brought in' to WIZO through her late sister-in-law, who was a member of WIZO Aviv at the time. Diana quickly joined the WIZO Aviv board, and in 1993 she attended the Aviv Seminar where she "was caught" by current World WIZO Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky. "From then on," Diana explains, "I always had WIZO leadership positions; my Aviv

seminar experience impacted me for the rest of my life.”

During her years in leadership positions, Diana has had time to reflect on both the meaning and potential of WIZO for advancing women. “I am very much impressed by the female power of WIZO – not only in Germany but all over the world. WIZO is a very good example of women being able to work together as a team.”

“[In Germany] we don’t feel the competition about positions and influence – here it’s working together for a common cause. It’s the experience of togetherness as a group of women who like each other – a sisterhood.”

### Challenges for WIZO Germany today

And yet, as is the case in much of the world, in Germany, “involving the younger ones” in the sisterhood is a lingering and complicated challenge. “There’s nothing worse than building something so wonderful and not finding younger women to follow up and take up the helm,” says Diana.

Part of the difficulty in recruiting new members is a reluctance to be registered members. “They’ll give the money [that membership would cost], but they don’t want to be registered. They are afraid of the obligations, they want their boundaries respected.”

Part of Diana’s strategy to counter this, is to take the pressure off new recruits and give them a lot of freedom “to do things the way they think things should be done,” and the strategy seems to be working. “Typically, their initial involvement is the appeal of joining a social peer group. We must start with the social aspects of joining. It becomes successful once it turns into a giving group – a group that has purpose and meaning.”

After they’re hooked, Diana makes every effort to give them opportunities to experience WIZO. “Whenever they come to Israel for a vacation, we try to arrange a visiting day for them. One Aviv member visited projects on her three most recent visits to Israel; she doesn’t need any more motivation because she’s seen what WIZO is.

“The Aviv seminars are also crucial –we approach our young women individually and tell them it’s an honour – a special opportunity for leadership training and experiencing WIZO. We see tangible results after they return.”

Another thing Diana emphasizes to potential new members is that WIZO means opportunity – and that opportunity exists beyond supporting social welfare projects in Israel. “Germany is a member of the European Council of WIZO Federations [ECWF] – the German delegate is a delegate to the European Women’s Lobby for all of Europe. Being involved in lobby work is a good way to involve the younger ones – appealing to their political sides. We send members to meetings at local, national and international women’s organisations – Jewish and non-Jewish.”

### Looking forward

Within the emerging and fast growing community of Jews in Germany, Diana along with all WIZO Germany chaverot have big dreams about what future role WIZO will play in Germany.

“For me,” says Diana, “the sky is the limit. I’d like to see every Jewish woman in Germany a passionate WIZO supporter, proud to be part of this extraordinary international organization, committed and to show her solidarity with Israeli society.”



Beit Heuss, a centre for support workshops for all elements of Israeli society, WIZO Germany’s flagship project in Herzlia Pituach

# Common Stories: A Voice for Jerusalem’s Youth

*WIZO’s Kagan Youth Centre is a non-stop hive of activity, a place where every child has the chance to tell their story*

It’s a Wednesday in May, and the WIZO Kagan Centre for Youth and Communications (sponsored by WIZOUk) is buzzing with commotion and activity. Downstairs, a group of high school students are broadcasting a radio show to all of Israel, and although the show may have a modest following, Yochai Rotenberg, the centre director, shushes a few girls playing loudly in the hallway out of fear that they’ll ruin the transmission. The girls are well below the ages that the centre officially serves, but in the socioeconomically struggling Katamon Chet-Tet neighbourhood where Kagan is located, it’s not unusual for older brothers and sisters to bring along their younger siblings. Indeed, it’s a usual story among the teenagers I meet at the centre, who tell me with a grin, “I’ve been coming to Kagan every day since I was 3-years-old.”

This is not the only story they share. The stories here are as common as they are special. They are stories of Jerusalem youth who found self-confidence and vehicles for self-expression within the centre’s four walls. They are stories of men and women who attended Kagan as toddlers and went on to join the payroll. They are stories of brothers and sisters, of struggling immigrant families, of a neighbourhood of rundown Jerusalem stone and bright green trees. They are the stories of children who everyone else had forgotten.

Here, the children find a second home, a place where everyone’s voice is and will be heard, where everyone’s opinion matters.

### The man behind the centre

Sitting in his office, surrounded by photos and appreciation plaques gifted to him over the years, Yochai begins to tell me about his past 23 years at Kagan – a position he took as a young social worker, shortly after finishing his army service. Taking a sip of black coffee before beginning, someone



Youth at work in the recording studio

knocks on the door and enters before waiting for an answer, “Yochai I need you ...” Throughout the disruptions – which Yochai summarily addresses – he describes why he feels so passionately about providing media - including film and radio - opportunities for youth.

“When I was working in the army, there was a problematic soldier and they didn’t know what to do with him. I handed him a camera. He went on to find his niche in the IDF as an army photographer, and I realized that through media we can solve many of our youth’s problems – if we let them develop something they love, then they’ll improve in other areas, too.”

With this in mind, Yochai set to work, accumulating equipment, recruiting local media professionals to donate their time, and gathering up teenagers from all walks of life, all socioeconomic groups, and all across Jerusalem, all united by the need of having their voices heard and someone to listen – a position Yochai will gladly fill.

### Pushing the red button

Developing the centre has been a work in progress, and Yochai has movies and recordings made by the children who have passed through the halls of the centre over the

years. A grainy video from the 90s shows a teenage girl describing herself pre-Kagan as someone without much interest in school, little self-confidence and a corresponding lack of ambition. Enter the Kagan Centre and Yochai - and the girl suddenly found herself with a video camera in her hands. She had a tool that would give her unparalleled vehicles for self-expression, but which presented her with the daunting challenge of learning how to use the equipment. Laughing, she claims that she doesn't have the best aptitude for the work, but at least she knows "how to push the red button." Grinning, Yochai switches off the recording and mentions that this particular girl later went on to have a career in media, a common story among centre graduates.



Lama (r) and her two radio coaches

Fast forward to today, and the video quality has improved and the girl dresses a bit differently, but she tells roughly the same story. Today that girl is Lama Awadi, an outspoken and opinionated 14-year-old Arab girl who was recruited by Yochai to join the radio programme.

Only on her 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Lama has already entered into the Kagan mind-set, exuding confidence and excitement about the opportunity at hand. Along with her peers, she participates in a weekly educational youth radio programme, edited, prepared and produced by the students, under the guidance of professional journalists Nadav Menuchin and Yossef Ben Bassat.

Together, the students pool ideas they've gathered throughout the week from their surroundings, usually a mixture of pressing issues facing youth and news items, and bring them to the studio where they edit the ideas down into a structured radio programme. They discuss everything from youth cigarette smoking to compulsory army service. Nothing is off limits, short of politics.

"Speaking on the radio gives you confidence," Lama explains. "But it's not easy: to write articles and tell stories, you have to learn how to express yourself in the most effective and fitting way."

### A community stronghold

As we walk through the maze that is the Kagan Centre, Yochai explains to me that in addition to fostering media and communications among the city's youth, the centre also provides badly needed community services for the neighbourhood.

The centre is able to function as such a vital community stronghold partially due to its base of volunteers - a mix of soldiers who dedicate one year of their army service to community service, pre-army, post-high-school 18 and 19-year-olds who elect to do a gap-year of volunteer service before enlisting, a host of local non-profits who pair up with the centre to launch community programming, and ordinary Israelis and visitors from abroad, grandmothers and grandfathers, mothers and fathers, exchange students and more, who volunteer their time for the benefit of Jerusalem youth.

The Katamon neighbourhood has always been on the poorer side, making it a target for the various arriving *aliyot* (immigrations of Jews to Israel) over the years. In the early years of the state, the neighbourhood was mostly populated by North African Jews. In the 1980s and '90s, it became a target for the influx of Russian families with big aspirations but little by way of means. Today, many Ethiopian families have moved in. Kagan has stood steadily as the



Basketball training

neighbourhood demographics changed, helping each of these groups absorb into Israel and shifting its services to meet the needs of the population.

And still, as generations come and go and the neighbourhood shifts according to outside trends, Kagan has stayed Kagan. Partially, this is due to Yochai's steady leadership, but also to a large number of graduates who have come back to work at the centre and start Kagan legacies of their own.

Take, for example, Shay Chemo, who is currently developing Kagan's sports department. A Kagan graduate (whose mother, formerly from WIZO Israel, is now leading the centre's women's group), Shay has started four soccer teams that practice weekly and participate in league games. Standing on the sports field surrounded by boys and occasionally ducking flying soccer balls, he tells me his latest accomplishment: starting a girls' team, a fledgling project that is steadily gaining interest.

Then there's Oriel, who arrived at Kagan as a high school student to participate in the radio programme. Later when Yochai heard she was doing National Service after the army, he called her up and told her: "You're going to do your service here." That meant working with children lacking confidence, on the radio programme. Finally, today, while studying politics and communications, Oriel works in reception as an employee. "I can't leave," she says, throwing up her hands and laughing.

### A small slice

I witness only a very small portion of what happens at Kagan. On the very day I visited, an animation club for elementary school students is meeting for the first time. In another room, volunteers of all ages - from high school kids doing community service, gap year students from the States and retirees - are doing one-on-one tutoring at the learning centre. (Here, too, you bump into a handful of small children, below the age served by the centre, playing on the computer or colouring.) In yet another room, two recent high school graduates who are doing a year of volunteer service before joining the army are leading a hip-hop class, a hit among the local teenagers, boys and girls alike. In another room, two girls are singing in preparation for a ceremony that Kagan will host for Independence Day. Somewhere



Yochai (r) with youngsters involved in different activities at the centre

else a women's empowerment group is meeting. In the sports hall, a group of pre-army high school students meet with a volunteer trainer from Hebrew University to both mentally and physically prepare them for joining the IDF. In the upper sports hall, Coach Shay gets the boys together for a huddle.

The centre is massive, a literal maze of activities, and Yochai leads me in and out of it, unlocking doors, leading me up stairwells, introducing me to more faces, ducking into rooms. Suddenly, we find ourselves outside. The Jerusalem air is fresh and clean, and the towering view shows the staggering juxtaposition of towering bright green trees beside the rundown houses of Katamon. Beyond you can see the white Jerusalem stone of the city. But you don't have too much time to stand in awe and take it all in, because there are children everywhere and Yochai says that there is still more to see.



Having a huddle

# “We don’t have to leave it up to the boys”

## Graduates of WIZO’s Young Leadership for Girls course reflect on their newfound worldviews

Text and photos Zohar Friedman

“Now I understand that sexism and inequality are part of our reality in Israel. Before, my eyes weren’t quite open to it, now I see it everywhere,” says Inbal Azaria, a soon-to-be graduate of the WIZO Young Leadership for Girls course. Held at the WIZO branch in Hadera, the course provides some 20 girls, ages 15-16, with the opportunity to meet once a week for two and a half hours to learn about the status of women, develop leadership and life skills and volunteer in WIZO institutions.

### Putting inequality into context

For Inbal, a 16-year-old Ethiopian girl, the course was not only eye-opening, but life-changing, a sentiment echoed by many of her classmates. The girls have not just had their social consciousness awakened, but have been activated and empowered to change the injustices they see in the world around them.

“Women are not equal in Israel – it’s not just in the army, it’s in the workplace and in the family. It’s everywhere. There have been many improvements, but it hasn’t changed totally and it needs to change further,” Inbal continues contemplatively.

“I see it in my family, too – my father earns more money than my mother: my mother is responsible for doing the dishes and housework and the kids, while my father works and comes home to sleep. If my little brother is sick – there’s no way my father would ever [miss work to] stay home with him, just my mother,” Inbal concludes.

In turn, her friend and group-mate, Yuval, discusses inequality within her peer group, especially in relationships with boys. “I now realize it’s chauvinistic – boys take for granted that they’re the ‘leader’ in a relationship, that they can talk to their girlfriends rudely and behave however they want because they’re ‘the man.’ Even among my friends, my male friends think they get to decide everything – where we’ll go, what we’ll do.”

### A teacher’s perspective

Adi Shouach, an experienced women’s leadership and empowerment coach, was excited about the opportunity to work with younger girls – a challenge which she has taken



During a team building exercise, the girls write compliments on a piece of paper taped on each participant’s back

in her stride, with a sense of humour and a smile.

“It’s different to work with young girls, but enormously rewarding,” Adi explains. “They take the world around them for granted, and it’s important to show them at this critical age that reality isn’t exactly right and it shouldn’t continue this way.”

For Adi, the girls both represent a troubling reflection of the gaps within our society as well as also the potential to close these gaps. “You see [the gaps] in their world-views,” Adi explains, recalling an incident where she asked the girls to look through newspapers to critically examine how women’s bodies and roles were depicted in advertisements. Some of the advertisements showed fathers in more domestic scenes – and while the inclusion of fathers in domestic roles is positive, Adi was saddened to hear the girls describe it as, “Look, the dad is doing the mum’s jobs’ – not the job of a parent, but ‘mum’s job.’”

In order to broaden the girls’ perspectives and help them become leaders, Adi located three areas of focus that she wanted to address in the course: First, personal development and practical tools, such as time management, public speaking and self-presentation; second, developing their understanding of gender inequality; and third, providing them with meaningful volunteer opportunities.

### “We don’t have to leave it up to the boys”

While opening the girls’ eyes’ to these problematic thinking patterns has set them on personal missions to change the world around them, giving them the opportunity to volunteer and meet female role models in leadership positions has given them more concrete visions for their futures.

For Maya Vershavski, age 15, a trip to the Knesset opened her sights to a future career in government. With a shy smile,



More team-building exercises: Massage circle - each girl gives the girl to her right a back-rub



Maya (left) and Yuval

she says, “It’s my goal to get into government – maybe even to be the prime minister. That way I can best improve the status of women.” For Inbal, a day of volunteering at a WIZO shelter for battered women combined with her interest in sociology and psychology have sparked her interest into the possibility of social work. Yuval was inspired by a lecture from a female lawyer and is now exploring a future in law. Other girls felt empowered after a visit from a female army officer, a day of volunteering at a WIZO day care centre, self-defence workshops, soliciting clothing donations for WIZO’s second-hand shops, and other activities organized by Adi.

In addition to being filled with a sense of future direction and purpose, the girls have all internalized that they have been charged with responsibility. “We aren’t just here [at the course] for the fun of it,” says Yuval, “we’re here for a purpose. It’s not that I dream of a perfect country, but I’m taking more responsibility on myself – I’m not shying away from fixing these problems and becoming a leader.”

### Who runs the world?

At a giddy moment during their last session together before their big closing ceremony, Adi asks the girls what music they’d like for the ceremony. After one girl suggests Beyonce’s *Who Runs the World*, the rest express their unanimous agreement by breaking out into song, “Who runs the world? Girls. Who runs the world? Girls!” Adi, in turn, breaks into her own private smile.

**WIZO’s leadership courses for young girls, which are held in branches around the country, open the eyes of the participants to be aware of the world and society around them, something they may not get from their home environment. While they see that changes and improvements have been made, there is still a lot to do and, thanks to their WIZO enlightenment, these girls, on the cusp of womanhood, will have the tools and awareness to be involved.**

# Turn a Life Around

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## Aviv

### Hi Avivs!

Surprised to see me here still representing your needs & wishes as the Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive? I am honoured to have been re-elected for a further term of two years. I promise to continue 'raising the bar' with your help to contemporize the WIZO Aviv brand and ensure our relevancy and effectiveness globally and in Israel. Our goals are to protect and uplift the lives & rights of women and children through WIZO. **As young Jewish women it is our responsibility & duty to lead as positive & effective role models in our own communities globally.** Let's start by telling you what my year has brought in experiences and promises to date...

I returned to Israel in January 2014 with leaders from 30 countries to attend the annual WIZO MOR (Meeting of Representatives). This five-day plenary conference proudly boasted the FIRST EVER concurrent **Leadership Empowerment Seminar**. Federation presidents brought their lucky young leaders to participate in top-level lectures & workshops empowering them with tools for life and future WIZO roles. Participants had the added benefit of being included in the best lectures, workshops & tours of the MOR as well.

I addressed both the Leadership Seminar and the MOR on WIZO Aviv to present your ideas & projections for the future improvement of WIZO. These included aspects you have asked for within the framework of WIZO such as investing in Young WIZO, maximizing use of our systems, reach & database to implement 'value added' applications within WIZO such as **WIZOtour**, **WIZOtravel**, **WIZOconnect** & **WIZOdate** to name but a few. To view this presentation, click on the link or look up [www.youtube.com/watch?v=edqxOR4Q748](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edqxOR4Q748).

The conference was dedicated to brainstorming new concepts, definitions & ideas on the issues of Membership, Leadership & Connectivity.

### I met the Prime Minister!

My most exciting experiences of the conference were visiting the Knesset where delegates met with the Knesset Speaker MK Yuli Edelstein & participated in an enlightening debate on gender issues with Members of the Knesset,



chaired by MK Aliza Lavie (chairwoman of the Committee on the Status of Women). The highlight for a select few, myself included, was a private audience with Prime Minister **Benyamin Netanyahu!** He thanked WIZO leaders for all we are doing for the betterment of Israeli society. Only through the influence and reach of WIZO would I ever have had the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister face to face. What an honour!

### What's next?

Avivs from countries in Central & South America always form a large, important & glamorous delegation at our seminars. This year I will join the **Congreso Latinoamericano** (Santiago, Chile 25-29 May) to address the conference on Avivs around the world. I am brushing up on my Español, hoping to make an impression & look forward to some Latino FUN!

### And then?

My **EuroTurboTour** began last year by visiting a few Young WIZO groups in some European cities. The trip was so successful that this year in September I plan to visit & **ignite** Avivs in many more cities such as Geneva, Zurich, London, Leeds, Milan, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki & Vienna. This opportunity to be the thread to weave together the fabric of WIZO is a joyous task for me.

### Aviv Seminar 2014...

is the most exciting event of the Aviv calendar. My visits are the link between groups but the seminar binds everyone together. Visiting Israel, working in our projects & receiving skills training from world-renowned trainers is an inspiring and rewarding investment in ourselves. The emphasis of our Aviv Seminar is to **see** what we are working for, **hear** the stories that we have played a great part in, **taste** the joy of having turned lives around, **smell** the success of facilitating new beginnings and **feel** the difference we have made in so many lives. Of course the new 'strangers-to-sisters' that we meet in each other, the new connections we make, and experiences we take home are all part of the gift from WIZO to each one of us.

I hope we meet each other soon!

Laurienne Baitz  
Aviv Representative to the World WIZO Executive

# The Untapped Potential of the Israeli Diaspora

*Ex-pat Israelis are becoming more involved with the Jewish communities*

Lisa Moss-Phillips

In recent years, the growth of the Israeli Diaspora has garnered the attention of the State of Israel and the Jewish world. An estimated 900,000 Israelis who are building a communal life abroad are shaking the Jewish boat. The State of Israel and Jewish communities increasingly realize that the Israeli Diaspora can be a political, economic, social and cultural asset. Moreover, Israelis living abroad present an emerging opportunity for strengthening the relationship between Israel and world Jewry. By leveraging their unique hybrid identity, the Israeli Diaspora can act as a catalyst in the changing state of *Jewish Peoplehood*.

The last decade has seen a tremendous growth in Israelis moving to North America. An estimated 120,000 Israelis live in the New York area which makes it home to the largest Israeli community outside of Israel. In Toronto an estimated 50,000 Israeli immigrants comprise up to one-quarter of the Jewish community. There are also significant numbers in Australia and Europe with Berlin being home to a 20,000 strong Israeli expatriate community.

### Cold shoulder

Traditionally, Israeli immigrants were given the cold shoulder from both the Israeli government and Diaspora Jewish communal organisations due to the inherent tension between the phenomenon of Israeli immigration and Zionism's call for all Jews to settle in Israel. By leaving Israel, they physically rejected and negated what the Jewish state stood for - an ingathering of exiles. In 1976, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin infamously described Israelis living overseas as *nefolet shel nemushot* (a debris of weaklings). Rabin later retracted his statement, but for a long time afterwards, this stigmatization stuck in the collective consciousness of most Israelis.

In recent years a changing paradigm has emerged in the relations between Israel and the Jewish world, one that is shaped by partnership and mutuality, with the notion of Jewish Peoplehood taking centre stage. The idea of Jewish Peoplehood emphasizes the role and importance of building strong Jewish communities, as opposed to building the State of Israel as the main mission of the Jewish people.

For decades, Israelis living abroad had been viewed as displaced citizens who, for the sake of Israel, must be nudged back home. But as the expat community grew in wealth, influence and numbers, perceptions changed. Gidi Grinstein, president and founder of the Reut Institute, a Tel Aviv based non-profit organisation which works on

strategic issues relating to Israeli society and Zionism, including the connection between world Jewry and the Jewish state, maintains there has been a transition (maybe even a revolution) in the attitude of the State of Israel towards the Israeli Diaspora. This new mind-set was embraced by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), when in 2012 the organisation modified its charter, including four new words to its mission statement: 'strengthening Israeli communities abroad'.

### Assimilation

Many of the expatriate communities in the Diaspora believe their Israeli identity is resilient and that they will be able to maintain it, even after many years abroad. However, research indicates that the Jewish identity of the children of Israeli immigrants is continuously eroding. The latest Pew Research Center survey of American Jews reveals that second generation Israeli immigrants are particularly ambivalent and vulnerable to alienation from mainstream Jewish life with intermarriage and assimilation rates in this community surpassing those of the North American Jewish community. In the face of this new reality, Israelis are realizing that 'Israeliness' is not enough to ensure that their children and grandchildren remain connected to their Israeli identity. They are increasingly seeking to be part of the community, and recent years have seen a surge in the involvement of Israelis in organised Jewish life. Israelis are also beginning to develop a culture of giving. They are beginning to see value and assume responsibility towards their community, as expressed in investment of both time and resources.

Israeli expat communities share an inherent bond to Israel that is reinforced by the deep attachment they feel to their birthplace and its culture. They can assist in Jewish community efforts to develop pride in Jewish identity, offer opportunities for real engagement with Israeli society and can be mobilized toward the cause of fighting delegitimization. Jewish communities are recognizing the potential of the Israeli Diaspora to serve as a resource for the State of Israel and the Jewish world, and have begun to invest resources in reaching out to this constituency.

### Israelis abroad for WIZO

The Israeli voice in South Africa has permeated into Jewish communal organisations as the community's numbers increase. This involvement extends to WIZO too. The dedicated chaverot from the Hebrew speaking TZABAR group are known for their zeal and commitment and have

**Photos from an event by the Israeli Business Club in London together with WIZO's ex-pat Israeli Rotem group, with guest speaker Dr Ines Verner, dermatologist, immediate past President of the Israel Society for Dermatologic Surgery.**



(l to r) Rona Perlis Zinman, Moran Drucker Rotschild, Dr. Ines Verner, Leora Torn-Hibler, Ronit Ribak-Madari, Sharon Buenos



Ronit Ribak-Madari, chair of WIZO Rotem, Orly Bauman, fashion model

become an integral part of WIZO Johannesburg. They celebrated their tenth anniversary in 2012. Nava Gonen, co-founder of WIZO TZABAR was elected Chairman of WIZO Johannesburg in March 2012, making history as its first Israeli chair. This community of Israelis gets together to celebrate Israeli culture and language in a fun way: screening Israeli films, Israeli sing-a-longs, shows etc. According to Nava they differ from their South African counterparts in their Israeli chutzpah, curiosity and creativity. They don't accept things at face value just because that's the way things have always been done but are constantly looking for ways to innovate and move with the times.

### Also in Australia...

Melbourne Australia is home to a growing community of around 6,000 Israelis. The WIZO community includes two Israeli groups, DOR for the 30+ and AMIT for the 50+. The main objective is to provide a support system as well as organising social and cultural activities for Israelis and Hebrew speakers and their families. Many of the activities revolve around the Chagim. Their involvement in WIZO helps to foster a strong connection with the State of Israel and unites them socially.

### ...and the UK

WIZO UK Aviv's ROTEM group is comprised of ex-pat Israeli business women aged 25 - 45 living in the London area. Meetings are conducted in Hebrew to encourage the Israeli chaverot to feel comfortable in their surroundings whilst developing a healthy growing network over time. Its members are very committed and passionate about Israel and they have a real desire to give and contribute to people in need at the projects that WIZO supports. Volunteering for

WIZO is a win-win situation. It enables them to feel they are doing something meaningful while contributing to a well-run, well deserved organisation like WIZO.

It is clearly evident that for these expat Israelis WIZO plays an important role in fostering their passion for the soul, spirit and people of Israel.

Swelling the ranks of membership is crucial to the future of WIZO and poses an ever-growing challenge. By engaging and integrating Israeli expatriates into WIZO communities worldwide we can expand our organisation's reach and raise awareness for our mission. Bringing them into the WIZO fold will not only benefit them, strengthen their Jewish identity and their capacity to contribute to the Israeli State, but will also enrich and strengthen our movement and the wider Jewish community.

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## Membership Recruitment for Generation Y

**As part of the Meeting of Representatives Young WIZO delegates from all over the globe discuss the Jewish World's most burning issue: how to involve Generation Y**

Zohar Friedman



Leadership Empowerment Seminar delegates

Yael Jhirad says that membership recruitment is the biggest challenge for WIZO India, and as president of the 80-member federation, she would know. Standing in the lobby of the Hilton Hotel in Tel Aviv during the WIZO Meeting of Representatives [MOR] beside the first ever WIZO India Aviv member, Remona Divekar – who agrees wholeheartedly with Yael – the women repeat something that is being anxiously repeated around Jewish organisations worldwide, including WIZO: Where is the next generation? How do we get them? Why aren't they interested?

But there's a fundamental difference in India than say, Germany, or Panama, or Canada, or South Africa – which is that the very concept of women's communal leadership is revolutionary in itself. Within the small Indian Jewish community – numbering 4,000 in Bombay – there is no competition for recruiting members. In fact, there is hardly

any women's leadership at all. Looking towards Remona as an ambitious young Jewish Indian woman, her involvement with WIZO isn't only about her Jewish identity, it's about opportunity.

For Remona and the women of WIZO India, joining WIZO means leadership training and women's empowerment.

### The same challenge, a different problem

Yael's difficulty in recruiting new WIZO members is quite different from those of WIZO presidents who come from countries that are more progressive in terms of women's rights.

The picture is entirely different for the chaverot of WIZO South Africa, who find their recruitment efforts and

rebranding campaigns challenged by the malicious Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign, which has cast a dark shadow on any organisation or movement that mentions Israel. In the USA, chaverot grapple with the overall disintegration of the larger Jewish community and apathy among the next generation in regard to Israel and their Jewish identity. In some countries, it's that WIZO has been erroneously branded as something for "old ladies;" in others, it's an issue of anti-Zionism or fear of anti-Semitism; in some, such as many Latin American communities, it's an issue of competing against other Jewish women's organisations; and in others yet, it's a more problematic mix.

### Recruiting: yesterday, today and tomorrow

Giving chaverot the opportunity to update the WIZO recruitment formula and adapt it to their home federations is one of the main focuses of the MOR and the concurrent Leadership Empowerment Seminar. The traditional WIZO recruiting formula involved close-knit, deeply Zionist Jewish communities, where people joined Jewish communal institutions the same way they sent their children to school – they just did. The previous generation also involved women who for both cultural and economic reasons often did not work outside the home – or at least were not as

intensely career-focused as women today – and instead invested their professional skills and education into Jewish institutions, such as WIZO.

As many of the conference's speakers explained, to say today's generation is 'different' is an understatement. Also known as Millennials, members of Generation Y tend to be significantly less involved and less interested in the Jewish World than previous generations. And while this generation is deeply passionate about social justice and social welfare issues, they do not automatically direct those leanings to Jewish or Zionist organisations.

According to the Millennial Impact Report by Achieve – a report that details Generation Y's tendency to "to connect, get involved, and give to causes they're passionate about" – Millennials are often more willing to volunteer their time rather than money. This generation also hates to feel that their time has been wasted. Perhaps most importantly: Generation Y value themselves as individuals; they want to get something out of their work, be it skill or character building, networking, personal development, a feeling of belonging or a unique experience.

Furthermore, they are bombarded with messages from thousands of competing organisations – everything from cancer to saving the environment. Why, then, should they choose WIZO?

### The new WIZO

As many of the MOR delegates discussed, in order to appeal to this generation, WIZO must be able to provide potential members with a multitude of things: a low-barrier, attractive invitation to connect with their Jewish identities; the feeling that their work is meaningful; the feeling that they're both benefitting from their service (skill or connection building) and are able to express their individualism through their contribution. Of course, it also helps if they feel that they are surrounded by like-minded peers as well as senior members with whom they can identify and connect.

While each federation president must decide which angle to emphasize when connecting with new members, Adi Balderman, a debate coach, explained the importance of the messenger – as well as the



Daphna Frucht

## Organization and Tourism Division

message. If a chavera wants to connect with new recruits, she must also consider how she as the messenger might affect a new member's desire to join – will she feel intimidated or invited? Put off or welcomed?

One of the MOR's most enigmatic speakers, Dr. Yaniv Levyatan, explained to chaverot the importance of getting their target audience – Generation Y – to do the advertising for them. Using the example of how Apple's unique trademark white headphones – worn by Apple consumers – helped advertise iPhones and iPods, Dr. Levyatan explained that one of the most important things a federation president could do was to get members of Generation Y to recruit Generation Y.

### Getting the work done for you

Daphna Frucht (33) and Iris Lanchiano (27) were the youngest conference attendees. Bright, well-spoken and charismatic, Daphna founded the Young WIZO group in Vienna in 2010 after realizing that Aviv was simply not the appropriate fit for her age bracket. "Avivs are mostly 40-plus and family oriented. They all have kids. You can't just expect the younger generation to be interested."

With the full support of the WIZO Austrian president, Daphna and Iris went to work recruiting Viennese Jews in their 20s and 30s to Young WIZO.

Daphna attributed the support she received from WIZO Austria leaders as crucial to her success. "Our president, Dr Hava Bugajer, is amazing. The first question we were asked when we started Young WIZO was 'what about the money?' I said, first we need to change the reputation. If you're new somewhere, you can't ask for a 100 or 50 euro entrance fee. First we need to build a reputation so they love us, so they know we're about fun events that they can contribute to. Only then will they start to give money. Hava understood and supported us immediately."

While Daphna and Iris know that their events must one day be profitable, they realized that, at first, they could not charge an entrance fee. Instead they experimented, leaving out a *tzedaka* (charity) box or making a short speech about WIZO's activities before the event began to solicit donations that way. While the learning curve was steep, with the understanding that they could experiment and make mistakes, the group has been able to raise money and new members for WIZO. Their

events have included everything from parties to an evening called 'Kosher Sex.'

Daphna's story illustrates Dr Levyatan's point –the next generation that will set the stage to involve the next generation. Daphna's Young WIZO group currently includes 20 members and is growing. WIZO Austria did not build the environment necessary to make WIZO relevant to the next generation; they recruited someone who could, a wise move.

### Looking forward

To loud applause, one delegate stood up and expressed frustration with a habit among federations to desperately want new young members, but to not listen to their ideas once they have them.

When asked what they feel they contributed to the MOR, both Daphna and Iris answer, "Hope." As Iris explains, "We showed them that there are young women who are interested and who share the same values."

WIZO delegates want what the rest of the Jewish world wants: practical tools, the magic bullet, the perfect formula. The elusive line that will allow them to confidently approach a 28-year-old young professional, a 33-year old first time mother, the up and coming lawyer, the PhD student, and to convince her to join WIZO, get involved, and take up the responsibility of leadership. What Daphna and Iris show is that while there is no magic bullet, sometimes all it takes is one – or two!



Remona Divekar

# SAVE THE DATE

## 2-6 November, 2014

### Hilton Tel Aviv, Israel

# WIZO AVIV International Seminar

Join young WIZO women from all over the world  
and become part of an incredible network of  
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Experiencing WIZO means top level speakers and unique workshops on Israel Advocacy, Zionism, Motivation, Community Building, while visiting and volunteering in WIZO projects.

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

To sign up and for more information please contact:

Dor Hemshech Department, World WIZO at [wizo@wizo.org](mailto:wizo@wizo.org) or your local WIZO Federation



Models displaying evening dresses at the WIZO Argentina race day fashion show

## ARGENTINA

### Off to the Races

At the close of 2013, right before the beginning of Argentina's summer holiday, WIZO Argentina held a superb cocktail party at the Buenos Aires Horseracing Track, hosted by entertainer Julian Weich. Under the guidance of Vice President Katy Gueler, WIZO Argentina designed a special betting system. In addition to the race itself, the event included a fashion show featuring evening dresses and hats, musical entertainment, dancing and champagne!

## AUSTRALIA

### International Women's Day

One hundred and fifty women celebrated International Women's Day with WIZO WA-Perth. After champagne on arrival, renowned journalist Ros Thomas spoke of her transformation from a 'naïve' young girl with big dreams and a solid work ethic to a well-known journalist covering major events such as Princess Diana's death and the Oscars. With humour and honesty, Ros demystified the complexities of being a modern woman juggling family, work, social life and community. The second guest, Sharon Parry, shared findings from her physiotherapy research and discussed maintaining a healthy lifestyle in the office. As an observant Jewish woman, Sharon explored the balance between striving to be the traditional family-oriented *Eshet Chayil* woman of valour while still aiming for professional excellence and respect within the community.

International Women's Day was also celebrated at Carmel School through an interactive presentation by Anne Topelberg OAM and Rachel Barrett, as well as a recently released secretly choreographed flashmob routine to Beyonce's *Girls* by Carmel students.

### Celebrating Bar & Bat Mitzvah Children

Children who have shared their Bar or Bat Mitzvah with WIZO learned the intrinsic value of giving to those who are less fortunate than them. WIZO NSW was delighted to welcome five Bar Mitzvah boys and one Bat Mitzvah girl to its AGM in March. Each made a generous donation to WIZO Australia's Bnai Mitzvah programme and were presented with certificates in recognition of their contribution. This year, WIZO NSW will be proactively working on this initiative and focusing on educating prospective Bar and Bat Mitzvah children on the value of helping a disadvantaged child in Israel to celebrate with them.



WIZO NSW President Gloria Newhouse hands out certificates to: (l to r) Sam Springer, Tai Oshlack, Sabrina Staub, Jesse Santer, Jack Burman, Alex Burman

### New Horizons Takes Off for 2014

WIZO NSW has lined up some fabulous events for the New Horizons Club for 2014. In its second year in operation, each club event is unique, exclusive to small groups and aimed at attracting new WIZO members. The coffee and ice cream appreciation morning provided a sweet start for the year with participants meeting at the Sensory Lab to experience its freshly brewed coffee. They then proceeded to treat themselves to a decadent tasting of Gelato Messina's world

famous ice-cream, along with a personal tour of this special ice-cream making process. WIZO members are looking forward to many more events this year ranging from expert flower arrangement with Debbie Weiss to an intimate breakfast with Bill Granger.



(l to r) Vivienne Selwyn, Helen Einstein, Anat Vidor, Robyn Kaufman, Benita Kam, Lynel Markovsky

## AUSTRIA

### WIZO Ball

Over 500 guests attended WIZO Austria's traditional WIZO Ball in Vienna, which originated in 1947. The ball opened with an amazing dance performance by 27 young couples dressed in long white gowns and black tie tuxedos.

Attendees included Austrian Foreign and International Affairs Minister Sebastian Kurz, Oscar Deutsch, President of the Jewish Community, Ariel Muzicant, Vice President of the European Jewish Congress and Chief Rabbi Hayim Eisenberg. Moderator Alfons Heider, a well-known musical star donated his services in order to help WIZO Austria support its projects in Israel. WIZO chaverot worked day and night to make the ball a great success, and all present marvelled at the beautiful brochure prepared by Danis Feiger on WIZO's work.



The beautiful dancers at WIZO Austria's ball



(l to r) WIZO Austria President Hava Bugajer, Minister Sebastian Kurz, Young WIZO member Daphne Frucht

## BELGIUM

### Aviv Art Auction

The annual WIZO Antwerp Aviv Art Auction included a visit to the new Red Star Museum, a cocktail hour and a walking dinner. Antwerp Alderman of Culture Philip Helen, who opened the evening, shared stories about figures who had passed through the building such as Albert Einstein, Golda Meir, Irving Berlin and Fred Astaire. Under the direction of Mr. Stéphane Aubert, the auction included skateboards that had been painted by Andy Warhol, Ai Weiwei and Emek. The 17 works for sale were quickly sold, pleasing the organizers and bringing the successful evening to a close.



Skateboards painted by famous artists for sale at the WIZO Antwerp Aviv Art Auction

### "All You Need Is Love"

WIZO Antwerp held a talk with psychiatrist Dr. Serge Gozlan on the importance of emotional ties. First, he spoke on how links between animals are crucial to their survival and then elaborated on human beings' vital need for attachment. Without relationships, normal human development is next to impossible, as gaps in attachment leave deep scars and negatively impact personality and behaviour. Dr. Gozlan spoke on a few cases that were helped by therapy and presented a different view of childhood and emotional shortcomings that could be more conducive to healing. He finished with a few words on oxytocin, the 'hormone of attachment', and even 'directed' guests to experience a brief surge of oxytocin by having them sing together.



## BRAZIL

### Brasília

#### International Women's Day

WIZO Brasília Anne Frank group hosted an International Women's Day celebration at the home of chavera Rachel Ungierowicz. Fabric flowers embellished with the WIZO symbol were distributed to all attendees.

### Pará

#### Celebrating 100 Years of Joy

The 100th birthday celebration of Honorary WIZO Pará President Cotta Levy was a joyous affair. Cotta, who has been a part of WIZO Pará since its foundation, enjoyed celebrating her birthday with the entire Pará Jewish community as well as her family members, children and grandchildren. Several special birthday messages were received, including one from WIZO Brazil President Helena Kelner which was read out by Raquelita Athias.

Esther Barros, former WIZO Pará president, described Cotta Levy as a role model to all of those who work and live with her. WIZO wishes her Mazel Tov and "till 120!"



Cotta Levy and WIZO chaverot

#### Idea Exchange

WIZO Brasília President Rachel Abitbol Raschkovsky attended a party at the home of Belinha Orengel – her aunt – along with 16 WIZO Pará chaverot. Rachel spoke about the exhibition, 'Only Children: Childhoods Stolen by the Holocaust,' which was held at Federal Senate and visited by over 20,000 guests. She also told them about Cultural Day, an event held by Brasília, providing a fruitful opportunity for sharing and exchanging ideas. At the same party, the chaverot were also treated to an interesting explanation on the celebration of Purim.



Idea exchange party

### Rio de Janeiro

#### Fashion Bazaar 2013

The Fashion Bazaar at the Roma Municipal School brought together Rio de Janeiro WIZO activists from far and wide. This year, Bat Mitzvah students from A.Liessin Scholem School attended, launching Future WIZO. Young WIZO is making a comeback, ensuring WIZO's future in Rio de Janeiro. The bazaar owes its success to both organizers and participants, especially to Eva Baumwol, as well as the WIZO Rio Executive and President Lúcia Balassiano.



Young WIZO at the WIZO Rio Fashion Bazaar

#### 100th Birthday

Maria Yefremov, a Holocaust survivor living in Rio de Janeiro, was honoured by chaverot from Shamash and Simcha groups in Rio de Janeiro with a special evening in celebration of her 100th birthday. The moving celebration of her life took place at the home of WIZO Rio de Janeiro President Lúcia Balassiano.



Maria Yefremov surrounded by young chaverot from WIZO Rio de Janeiro

#### Hanukkah Celebration

At their crowded headquarters, WIZO Rio de Janeiro chaverot brought their busy 2013 year of activities to a close with a festive Hanukkah celebration and a speech by Rabbi Benjamin Zagury, who praised the chaverot for their dedication to WIZO. Hanukkah candles were lit by chaverot Clara Grinstein, Sonia Zagarodne, Bella Kogut and Sara Zaidman. The highlight of the evening was the awarding of the WIZO Brazil Medal of Tolerance, Friendship and Solidarity to chavera Ester Jerusalmi for her work in group *aliya*.



Awards Panel: (l to r) Sheila Saubermann, Lilian dos Santos Ferreira, Rosa Wurman, Lúcia Balassiano, Ana Marlene Starec, Honorary Consul, Osias Wurman



Ester Jerusalmi (centre) with Suzana Grinspan and Sarinha Apelfeld

#### Technological Innovation in Israel

Thirteen municipal schools took part in the *Technological Innovation in Israel* contest, promoted by the WIZO Rio de Janeiro Culture and Hasbara Division and the Municipal Secretariat of Education. From a total of 34 entries, the committee selected the following winners: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Liliana Toledo Garcia, "Water: from essential to rare, Israel overcomes it all!"; 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Beatriz Gomes da Silva Cunha, "Small country, great discoveries"; 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Alen Sivorri Ferreira de Souza, "Israel – an overview of its technological evolution."

### Rio Grande do Sul

#### Inaugural Meeting

WIZO Rio Grande do Sul held its 2014 inaugural meeting with a presentation by Professor Tania Bian on volunteering, from its beginnings in the Middle Ages through to today. She then spoke about the beginnings of WIZO in England, through to Israel and finally reaching Brazil and Rio Grande do Sul. With FIRS auditorium packed almost to capacity, WIZO Rio Grande do Sul President Sophie Isdra opened the meeting by giving out WIZO Rio Grande do Sul day planners, already marked with WIZO events and Jewish holidays. FIRS President Mário Cardone also attended and addressed the chaverot and WIZO chaver Pedro Gus, who always supports WIZO Rio Grande do Sul.



Rio Grande do Sul President Sophie Isdra



## Shabbat Doesn't Go on Vacation

About 150 people went to the SABA country seat in Atlântida to celebrate the traditional 'Shabbat Doesn't Go on Vacation' event. The event is held yearly by WIZO Rio Grande do Sul during summer vacations in partnership with SIBRA.



Candles lit during the 'Shabbat Doesn't Go on Vacation' event

### São Paulo

## Chana Szenes and LeHaim Groups Celebrate Tu Bishvat

Tu Bishvat, the new year of the trees, was celebrated by the Chana Szenes Group at the WIZO Sao Paulo headquarters by planting trees, a symbolic representation of the planting of new ideas and projects in 2014. "It is time to plant so that we may have fruitful harvests, like the trees", said Etejane Coin, a member of Chana Szenes Group.

The Lehaim group, which also started the year by planting new ideas, used Hebraica's Tu Bishvat celebration to mark the beginning of its activities in 2014.



Chana Szenes group celebrates Tu Bishvat



Lehaim group at their Tu Bishvat event

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day

WIZO São Paulo took part in a civic ceremony to observe International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Governor's Palace in the State of São Paulo. Acting President of the Republic Michel Temer was in attendance, as was the State Governor Geraldo Alckmin, the Israeli Ambassador to Brazil Rafael Eldad, World War II veterans and Holocaust survivors.

## Sharsheret Choir at the Cathedral

The Sharsheret Choir accepted an invitation from the Israel Consul in São Paulo Yoel Barnea to participate in the closing ceremony of the exhibition "Popes in Israel – the Holy Land," as well as a mass hosted by Cardinal Dom Odilo Scherer held at Sé Cathedral in memory of Holocaust victims. After a touching presentation, the choir received a thank you letter from the Israeli Consulate.



Sharsheret Choir chaverot with Cardinal Dom Odilo Scherer

## Holocaust Exhibit

The exhibition, *Only Children: Childhoods Stolen by the Holocaust*, sponsored by WIZO São Paulo and curated by the Curitiba Holocaust Museum, supported by Tecnisa, opened to a gathering of about 300 people. The support of WIZO São Paulo Tzehirot and Silvia Hodara groups was essential to the successful outcome of this event. As stated by activist Miguel Krigsner, "Violence against children all over the world should no longer be accepted, and this exhibition really aims to cause people to think about what could be done to make a difference and also to keep other genocides like the Holocaust from happening."



Tzehirot (Young Women) group chaverot with Iza Mansur

## CHW Montreal: New Connections

CHW Montreal Centre hosted a New Connections outreach event as an opportunity for young women to learn more about CHW Montreal and how they can get involved. It was a fun and interactive evening, and even included an amusing game of Jewish Jeopardy. Up next is a volunteer night at Le Cafe, a local kosher soup kitchen and a fun night of "Cocktails and Manicures."



New Connections (front row, l to r) Rhonda Schwartz, Marla Goodwin Zipper, Sheila Levine (back row l to r) Rachelle Zipper, Samantha Rosenthal, Michelle Shiveck, Alana Shiveck, Jordana Levine, Corey Levine, Naomi Berkovic-Kincler, Donna Perlin

## From Generation to Generation

CHW Vancouver's opening event honoured the involvement of several generations of mothers and daughters in Canadian Hadassah WIZO. Over brunch at the Richmond Country Club, third and fourth generation pins were awarded to various families and special recognition was paid to the Shawn family. Eliza Shawn, z"l, and her daughter, Rosaline Pullan, z"l, were committed members of CHW, both leaving bequests to support the WIZ Kids Programme, which has been implemented in all six CHW day care centres in Israel.

Rosaline Pullan's granddaughter saw this first hand when she visited a CHW day care centre this summer on a Biluim Israel trip, organised by Canadian Young Judaea, which is affiliated with CHW. Four local Biluim participants spoke of their very special experiences visiting the centres, as a result of which the group of 140 teenage Biluim delegates has decided to dedicate their *tikkun olam* project to the WIZ Kids programmes.



CHW Vancouver President Bev Corber (second from left) welcomes Joy Shapiro, Sari Pullan, Eden Fish and Yvette Porte to the multi-generational event

## CANADA

## Israel Mini Mission

Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW) leadership was joined by seven CHW members from across Canada for its 2014 Project Mission to Israel. National President Marla Dan, Executive Director Alina Ianson, National Vice President Claudia Goldman and National Director Roslyn Joseph, along with participants Alice Anidjar, Debra Goldberg, Sharon Gray, Janice Gray-Edell, Ginaya Peters, Gayla Schwartz and Linda Senzilet spent one week in Israel visiting several CHW projects, including the Sandy Martin Alberta Day Care Centre and CHW Hadassim and Nahalal Youth Villages. The group also had the opportunity to tour historic sites such as Old Jaffa, Neve Tzedek and the Old City of Jerusalem, and eat in beautiful Israeli restaurants and visit local wineries.



CHW Israel Mini Mission participants enjoying the warm Israeli weather



## CHILE

### International Women's Day

WIZO Chile and the Israeli Embassy presented an award to the editor of the *El Mercurio* magazine Paula Escobar Chavarria in honour of International Women's Day. The award was jointly presented during a special breakfast at the WIZO headquarters by Israeli Ambassador to Chile David Dadonn, WIZO Chile President Agnes Mannheim, Israeli Consul in Chile Hilly Gal-Or and the Austrian, Swiss and Greek Ambassadors, among other officials present. Starting in 2014, the magazine implemented Israel's new 'Photoshop Law,' which prohibits publishing photos of underweight models and obliges publishers to state whether images were digitally retouched or photo-shopped.



(l to r) Agnes Mannheim, Paula Escobar, David Dadonn

### Woman of 2014 Award

WIZO Chile honoured journalist Karen Poniachik, a Jewish woman with an illustrious career in the public and private sectors of Chile, having served as a consultant to various companies and women in Chilean politics. She also served as Minister of Mines and Energy during the first government of President Michelle Bachelet. On the occasion of the award, WIZO Chile President Agnes Mannheim said, "Karen shares the vision of WIZO women who tirelessly seek to build a better world through education and support for the most vulnerable." Karen received her award in the presence of national authorities and the Chilean Jewish community.



(l to r) Vivi Karpuj, Karen Poniachik, Agnes Mannheim

## DENMARK

### WIZO Bazaar

Just before Hanukkah, WIZO Denmark opened the doors of the Oesterbro Community Centre for their annual bazaar. Attending the bazaar has become a tradition for many families, an occasion to catch up with relatives or former Jewish school classmates – as well as to eat, buy Hanukkah gifts or bet their luck at the tombola. For the past few years, the bazaar has owed its success to the skilful management of Yvonne Katz, who organised the venue, the stage performers and the sales booths, earning significant funds for WIZO Denmark's projects. Unfortunately, Yvonne is retiring this year, and the WIZO Denmark Bazaar Committee will miss her special blend of hard work, dedication and warmth.



WIZO Denmark annual bazaar

### WIZO's Embassy Brunch

WIZO Denmark held its Embassy Brunch at the beautiful home of the Israeli Ambassador to Denmark Baruk Binah and his wife Shulamit. In addition to showing amazing hospitality, Shulamit, who holds an MA and is an expert in Iraqi-US relations, gave a fascinating talk on the history of the Iraqi Jews in the last century. This was followed by a performance from Israeli mezzo-soprano Ayala Zimpler-Hertz, who usually performs as a soloist at the Israeli Opera. Her benefit-performance – put together in coordination with the Ambassador Binah and Shulamit – included accompaniment by concert pianist Semion Balschem and music from Bizet and Tchaikovsky, as well as Israeli composers Ze'ira and Argov. Afterwards, Shulamit invited everybody to a delicious brunch buffet.

## FINLAND

### International Women's Day

For the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, WIZO Helsinki members met for a ladies' dinner at the local community centre to both celebrate International Women's Day and show support for WIZO. WIZO Finland President Nina Nadbornik talked about her visit to Israel for the MOR and showed pictures of the renovated garden in the Finland-sponsored WIZO-Shaviv day care centre. Guests were treated to musical entertainment from singer Jenny Liebkind and her band,

and a delicious buffet prepared by Jewish community chef Avi Hovav. Lottery tickets for a chance to win a number of wonderful prizes sold out quickly. In addition to being great fun, the event emphasized the importance of providing bonding time for Finnish Jewish ladies of all ages.



Young WIZO members Avital and Galith Nadbornik and Ita Wolff

## FRANCE

### Opera the WIZO France Way

WIZO France held a music and humour evening with David Serero, the famous French baritone, who treated all to a wonderful opera evening in the "WIZO France Way" – with plenty of joy and laughter.



David Serero opera event flier

### Book Fair

WIZO France organised their 60<sup>th</sup> Book Fair at the magnificent halls of the 3<sup>rd</sup> arrondissement Hôtel de Ville (Municipality) in Paris. Large numbers of curious visitors and an impressive group of 80 writers who had recently published books attended. The event also included a special writing workshop for children, led by WIZO members.

## International Women's Day

On International Women's Day, WIZO France organised an event on 'Women and the Sciences, a Look at France and Israel.' A large audience of 300 men and women filled the amphitheatre at the French Parliament, which showcased Israeli innovations in the sciences, as well as offered WIZO France the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to women's advancement.

### Movie Première

With everyone talking about the latest movie by internationally-known director Claude Lelouch, *Salau, On T'aime*, WIZO France was delighted to receive an invitation from the esteemed director to the film première. Together with the actresses who appear in the film and Lelouch, the chaverot enjoyed a special evening of happiness and friendship. Agnès Soral moved everyone to laughter and captured hearts. WIZO France especially thanks Nadine Feingold and the Events Committee who worked so hard to organise this activity, as well as many others.



(l to r) Actress Agnes Soral, Suzy Sayag, Actress Sylvia Cazan, WIZO France President Joelle Lezmi, Claude Lelouch, Nadine Feingold, Sonia Cohen-Scali

## GERMANY

### WIZO Cologne's Ball

The traditional WIZO Ball in Cologne took place at a very 'cool location' in the heart of the city. With Andrea Kiewel, a very popular television moderator, entertaining the guests throughout the evening, the sold-out event saw 230 impeccably dressed ladies and gentlemen dancing until late into the night. Orly Licht, a member of WIZO Germany Executive, spoke about WIZO's goals and the federation's solidarity with Israel. Entertainment was provided by the band ORIGINALS from Brussels and the local Jewish community's cantor, who stunned everyone with his performance. With top-notch giveaways provided by a very well-known jeweller, the evening was a remarkable financial success and saw many guests commit to sponsorships.



The invitation to the Cologne WIZO Ball

### WIZO Germany's Biggest Bazaar

WIZO Germany's annual bazaar, which took place at the Frankfurt Jewish Community Centre, was visited by over 5000 shoppers. After opening remarks from WIZO Germany Honorary Secretary Nicole Faktor and Frankfurt's mayor, the 'Big Bazaar' officially opened. With over 12000 pieces of new and second hand clothing for sale, 2500 raffle prizes, 1000 pieces on offer in the flea market, this year's bazaar lived up to previous years as a local highlight. In the evening, Young WIZO's cocktail bar – which included delicious drinks and music from a popular DJ – created a wonderful atmosphere. As the second day of the Bazaar happened to be a nationwide "Mitzvah Day," elderly residents of the Jewish Old Age Home were brought to join the festivities, where they were treated with coffee and cake. As with previous years, proceeds went to the benefit of Beit Heuss in Herzliya.



Shoppers gathered at the WIZO Frankfurt Bazaar

### Afternoon Fashion Tea

WIZO Frankfurt hosted a classy afternoon of both fashion and English tea-time, held in cooperation with a five-star hotel and designer label Escada. While the luxury hotel

provided the premises and delicacies, Escada contributed spring fashion items. In her remarks, WIZO Germany President Diana Schnabel pointed out that WIZO once again proved that it can bring people together, with Jewish and non-Jewish women enjoying tea and discussing fashion. She added that WIZO is an international organisation and she hopes that the younger generation of WIZO women perceives themselves as part of this great adventure. Proceeds were dedicated to the Marie Sternberg Day Care Centre in Bat Yam.



Glamorous models presenting ESCADA fashion

### Fall Market Hannover

For the fourth time WIZO Hannover hosted its popular Fall Market at the Liberal Jewish Community in Hannover. The visitors indulged in the goods on sale at various booths, including Israeli food and wine, salad, soups, drinks and books. The market's most popular booth sold Israeli jewellery, craftwork, games, candleholders and many other beautiful items. Visitors also had the option of touring the synagogue and the library – which is always a big attraction for WIZO's non-Jewish friends and the citizens of Hannover. Musical entertainment was provided by a piano player, a violinist and two young singers. The event organisers and volunteers saw their hard work pay off when the event's total revenue was announced, which increased considerably since last year and will support WIZO Germany's flagship project Beit Heuss in Herzliya.

## HOLLAND

### Food Fest in Amsterdam

A variety of culinary events took place in Amsterdam under the auspices of WIZO. Two students, Batel Harush and Orel Cohen, and their teachers from the Rebecca Sieff Cooking School in Jerusalem, gave a cookery demonstration. While in Amsterdam they visited the Hospitality School and interacted with the students, and also visited the Anne Frank House.

Meanwhile, some 1000 visitors to the food fair were entertained by a variety of events, including food-related discussion panels, food and gift items to buy, a restaurant manned by the many kosher caterers and wine tasting. A special attraction was artist Jeff Naftaniel's workshop on creating jewellery from food leftovers and waste.

The proceeds of the day were dedicated to the chefs' training programme at the Rebecca Sieff Centre.



Michel de Hond (with microphone) presents GoGo Kosher. Batel Harush (l) and Orel Cohen

## HUNGARY

### Purim Visits to the Elderly

WIZO Hungary's main mission is assisting elderly Holocaust survivors. Volunteers brought *mishloach manot* [goodie bags] to the Jewish hospital for Purim and distributed them among the patients. Some of these patients had had no other visitors for a long time and were delighted for the opportunity to chat with visitors from outside of the hospital. The federation also organised a visit to a Jewish rest home where they organised a small coffee and cake party in the lounge. More mobile residents enjoyed the opportunity to make pleasant conversation in the lounge, while volunteers personally delivered the gifts to those confined to their rooms.



Visiting with an elderly Jewish woman in her room over Purim

## INDIA

### Stray Dogs

Ahead of International Women's Day and Purim, WIZO India chaverot gathered at the Tiphereth Israel Synagogue, where messages from World WIZO were read. The chaverot invited the CEO of a local neighbourhood non-profit, Welfare of Stray Dogs, Abodh Aras, to discuss the issue of stray dogs in the city of Mumbai and how his organisation is working tirelessly to improve the condition of the dog population and rid it of rabies. The eye-opening talk left all members sensitive to the issue of the neglected, stray dogs and how it can be addressed.

### Women's Rights

WIZO India President Yael Jhirad participated in the performance of the play *Nirbhaya* by Yael Farber at the NCPA. In the play, which serves as a call for societal change, the rape and death of a woman named Jyoti catalyses each performer to bravely come forward and break the silence, each recounting her own intimate and personal experience of sexual and gender-based violence.

Yael Jhirad has also been closely in touch with gender violence victim Sneha Jawale, who was burnt with kerosene by her in-laws for not bringing a dowry. Today, Sneha is ready to face the world and speak up in order to encourage more women to come forward and bring an end to this horrible phenomenon.

## ITALY

### Casino Royale Gala

ADEI-WIZO's Milan Branch Aviv group was proud to celebrate the fifth anniversary of its annual Casino Royale Gala. The evening provided dinner, music and casino entertainment for around 150 guests. Players won fabulous prizes donated by WIZO supporters, including items from Giorgio Armani, Cocinelle and others.



Milano Aviv group's Casino Royale Gala



## Christian, Muslim & Jewish Women as Peace Ambassadors

To celebrate International Women's Day, the Rome group of ADEI-WIZO held an event that included all women's organisations in Italy regardless of their affiliation. The group held a meeting of Christian, Muslim and Jewish women from Israel, with representatives from the women's organisations, to hear the stories of these very different women. Difficult for listeners to hear and speakers to tell, the stories of hope and strength moved the audience. These women are living and breathing ambassadors for peace, coming together to share feelings, accept and help one another, and live together as a community. Many of the representatives revealed they had benefitted by WIZO projects. The women's words filled the audience with hope for peace, and showed how women may be able to create a more peaceful world both now and for future generations.



Stefania Efrati and Sara Procaccia welcome Christian, Muslim and Jewish ambassadors of peace

## History of ADEI-WIZO

Liora Misan and Marina Sagues, joint-presidents of the Trieste branch of ADEI-WIZO, launched the first event of the 'Spring of Women 2014' International Women's Day programme of linked activities. The inaugural event was a photographic exhibition, edited by Daniele Misa, featuring 80 years of ADEI-WIZO Trieste and the branch's central role in the Jewish community's educational projects. Maria Teresa Bassa Poropat, President of ADEI-WIZO Trieste, Laura Famulari, Trieste Municipality Council Member and Alessandro Salonichio, President of the Trieste Jewish Community, gave opening remarks. National ADEI-WIZO President Ester Silvana Israel briefly explained to the large audience WIZO's vision and purpose, underlining its vital role in fostering Jewish education in Italy. Livio Vasieri and Fulvia Levi presented the research methods used along with Marina and Liora to prepare the exhibition material.



Ester Silvana Israel (l) with Liora Misan and Marina Sagues and executive members of Trieste ADEI-WIZO branch

## MEXICO

### Education Projects

One of the ongoing projects of WIZO Mexico is improving the school facilities for poor Mexican children. This year was no exception and 600 members worked tirelessly for months to produce the event *Chinese Raffle and Auction Pro-Mexican Education*, which was a great success both socially and financially. The unforgettable evening included a raffle with a car as first prize plus many other gifts, and an art auction featuring paintings by renowned Mexican artist Francisco Toledo.

Another longstanding tradition is donating annual scholarships to all the Jewish schools to enable Mexico's Jewish youth to further their Jewish education. This year a sculpture called *Seeds of the Future*, which was created under the coordination of Anita Hamui and Mery Rosenfeld, was unveiled with the goal of creating a permanent fund to assure the continuity of this project and to thank the donors for their invaluable support.



WIZO Mexico President Shula Shrem (l) with Chinese Raffle event coordinator Arielle Weizel

### Visit of Rivka Lazovsky

WIZO Mexico was honoured with the visit of World WIZO Chairperson Rivka Lazovsky, who gave a moving and motivating speech to 30 presidents of WIZO groups at WIZO Mexico headquarters.

Rivka and WIZO Mexico President Shula Shrem attended a dinner hosted by Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto in honour of Israel's President Shimon Peres, who was in Mexico at the same time. Peres was in Mexico to attend the International Book Fair in Guadalajara, where Israel was the 'guest of honour'. WIZO Mexico took this opportunity to hold their national conference in Guadalajara, which was enhanced by the presence of Rivka Lazovsky and where chaverot from Tijuana-San Diego, Monterrey, Guadalajara and Mexico City were in attendance.



WIZO Mexico chaverot with Rivka Lazovsky (centre) at Guadalajara conference

### Cultural and Fundraising Activities

During the year, the Cultural Committee organised numerous events including lectures entitled *Myths and Realities about Cancer, The State of Israel, its Lights and Shadows*, and a visit to an art exhibition by Cuban painters entitled *Revelations*. The cultural year ended with a sumptuous breakfast.

All the groups were also busy with fundraising events including a theatre premiere, a sale of soccer balls, shirts and jackets for the upcoming soccer World Cup, Valentine's Day gifts, a bingo night, the sale of Hanukkah candles, a raffle for a painting by Leonardo Nierman, an End of Year Bazaar and the sale of acrylic boxes for matza.

### Membership Campaign

Under the slogan *With our Acts Today we Ensure Tomorrow's Success*, WIZO Mexico held a successful membership campaign with the goal of strengthening the federation by increasing membership. One of the most successful events of the campaign, attended by 420 women was a presentation by Gaby Vargas, a prominent author, image advisor and media communications expert. Gaby enthralled the audience with his talk entitled *Don't Look for Success, Make Your Life a Success*.



Membership Committee with Gaby Vargas (centre, holding flowers)

## NEW ZEALAND

### Kesher Fundraising Event

The Hawks Bay WIZO Kesher group, the federation's non-Jewish supporters, held another successful fundraising event. The group was honoured to welcome Israeli Ambassador to New Zealand Yosef Livne and his wife Norma to the function, as well as Joyce Baker, President Emeritus of WIZO New Zealand. Lorna Orbell, WIZO New Zealand President, thanked Kesher Group Chair Berry Small and her committee for their continued support. After lots of hard work and effort, the function was enjoyed by all.



Front row: (l-r) Jeanette Wakefield, Joyce Baker, Ambassador Yosef Livne, Berry Small. Back row: (l-r) Estelle Davis, Natalie Smirke, Jan Crawford (Sec) Katheryn Hunt

### Welcoming the Ambassador

WIZO hosted a cocktail evening welcoming incoming Israeli Ambassador to New Zealand Yosef Livne and his family.



## PANAMA

### Table Setting Competition

WIZO Hatikva sponsored a table setting competition, which included a wine tasting session and a tasty lunch. Competitors were free to do anything they wished, and the results were extremely creative, original and artistically set tables. Judges evaluated the tables on protocol, creativity, originality and harmony. Submissions included a hand-painted glass table, a table in the sand, a book-club ambiance-inspired table – and of course a Shabbat table. Contestants also came up with highly creative names for their entries, including *Secrets of the Sea*, *Breaking News*, *Poker Night*, *Summer Grace*, *Time*, *Dry Nature*, and even *WIZO Menu*.



A beautifully set table

## PARAGUAY

### Valves for Paediatric Neurosurgery

“Damas Israelitas del Paraguay” fulfilled their commitment to the most vulnerable sector of the population, delivering valves for children’s neurosurgery to the Neurosurgery Clinics Hospital in Asunción. WIZO is the largest and most important Jewish women’s organisation in Paraguay, active for more than 90 years. WIZO Paraguay works to promote respect, equality of rights and opportunities for all human beings without distinction, with particular emphasis on education, health and general welfare.



(l to r) Paty Sborowsky, WIZO President Rosana Barán, Rebeca Rosenfeld, Renée Haber wife of Max Haber, Paraguay’s ambassador to Israel, and the chief medical representative of the Neurosurgery Clinics Hospital in Asunción, Paraguay

## Jewish Museum Inauguration

This year, on the 2014 commemoration of Kristallnacht, the Paraguayan Jewish Community held the inauguration of the new Dr. Walter Kochmann Jewish Museum. The event included a moving opening ceremony that saw the street housing the new museum crowded with supporters. Many different sectors of the Paraguayan community attended, including well-known personalities from government and the private sector – and of course WIZO representatives. At a moving conclusion to the inauguration ceremony, the ribbon was cut by a Holocaust survivor.



(l to r) Raquel Perera, Graciela Kemper, Susy Abraham and Rosana Barán represented Wizo at the ceremony of the Kristallnacht in Asuncion, Paraguay

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Cape Town

### Girls Night Out

Aviv Shorashim hosted a Girls Night Out event that was held at the Ster Kinekor Cavendish Square. Attended by 80 WIZO members and non-members alike, the evening was themed ‘Your Best Holiday’ and requested that attendees come dressed in their best holiday gear. The event included a movie screening as well as a raffle with outstanding prizes, including overnight stays and spa packages. The best-dressed lady was also presented with an award, bringing a wonderful close to a fabulous, fun evening.



Aviv Shorashim Girls Night Out event

## Political Breakfast

Acclaimed political activist Rhonda Kadalie was the guest speaker at one of Cape Town’s most prestigious fundraisers of the year. Hosted by the Gila Branch of the Bnoth Zion Association WIZO, the event included a wonderful breakfast and a fascinating talk.



(l-r) Convenor Sandra Sternberg, Rhoda Kadalie, Adele Saven, (Back) Connie Berman, Tamar Lazarus

## Golf Day

The annual BZA WIZO Sponsor-A-Child golf day got off to a fabulous start. With beautiful weather, beautiful prizes and most of all beautiful Aviv committee members, this year’s BZA WIZO golf day was the best one yet in the event’s history.



WIZO chaverot at the golf day fundraiser held at the King David Golf Club

## Annual General Meeting

The Bnoth Zion Association WIZO held its 112<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM). A crowd of enthusiastic members and visitors gathered to hear the keynote speaker Dr. Colin Froman discuss his book, *The Right of Return*. BZA WIZO congratulates Tessa Scher on her term of office as chairman and welcomes the incoming co-chairs, Felicity Isserow and Suzanne Luck.



(l to r) Suzanne Luck and Felicity Isserow with Past Chairs Li Boiskin, Barbara Flax, Moonyeen Castle, and WIZO SA President Tamar Lazarus

## Durban

### The WIZO Tree of Life

WIZO Durban celebrated their milestone 80<sup>th</sup> AGM, which was appropriately themed, *WIZO Tree of Life: Strength, Vitality & Love*. Marcia Strous and Arline Foreman were presented with certificates in appreciation of their many years of devoted and loyal service to WIZO Durban.



WIZO Durban Executive Committee: Front (l to r): Arline Foreman, Shirley Schneiderman, Lorraine Berzack, Marlene Keats, Laraine Cohen  
Back (l to r): Laurienne Baitz (co-Chair), Colleen Mervis (co-Chair), Vivienne Stiller (Secretary), Michelle Nathan (co-Chair), Lynn Foster, Marcia Strous

## Johannesburg

### Outreach Reward

The WIZO Outreach Reward is an annual award presented to both primary and high school students who have shown commitment to helping others by giving of their time, collecting money or goods for donation to worthy causes, or by showing both care and compassion for others and identifying with the State of Israel. This year, the award was presented to Yeshiva Girls High School Grade 9 students.



Recipients of the WIZO Outreach Award with WIZO Vice Chair JHB Andrea Wainer (far l), (l-r) Michal Lew, Dinah Rabson, Pnina Herring, Dani Waksman

### Bus Tour

A full busload of participants was treated to an exhilarating, informative, and nostalgic tour on "Remembering the Jewish Contribution to the Struggle." Brett McDougall and Merle Ruff, of the Johannesburg Heritage Foundation, shared their research with attendees as they passed through Doornfontein, Yeoville, Bellevue, Upper Houghton and Norwood, recalling some of the leading Jewish figures in the 'Struggle.' Flo Bird, the dynamic fighter for Johannesburg's heritage, navigated the tour. The highlight of the visit was "Liliesleaf," where participants shared the experiences of Rivonia trialists, including Madiba (Nelson Mandela) and Kathrada.



(l to r) Kim Wainer, Andrea Wainer, Marcia Parness, Ayala Sharir, Molly Jayes

### Annual General Meeting

WIZO Johannesburg held its 100<sup>th</sup> AGM, representing a century of dedication, love and commitment by thousands of WIZO women. Rabbi Katz recited a Dvar Torah on Queen Esther. Under the theme "Portraits of Moral Choice," Tali Nates, the Director of the Johannesburg Holocaust Centre, told the stories of Holocaust victims and survivors. The chairman's report covered WIZO's many functions and educational programmes. Honorary Life Awards were conferred to Marcia Parness and Annette Price (honorary

life presidents) and to Hazel Crown and Lorraine Rosmarin (honorary life vice chairmen). The treasurer reported that despite the difficult economic climate, WIZO Johannesburg had achieved its target. The meeting concluded with the singing of Hatikvah and tea.



Johannesburg Annual General Meeting

### Pretoria

### Annual General Meeting

The 113<sup>th</sup> WIZO AGM in Pretoria was attended by WIZO members and representatives from numerous Pretoria organisations, each of which remarked on the sizeable funds raised by WIZO Pretoria, a small but active community. Guest speaker was WIZO superwoman Dina Diamond. The two short videos that were shown left no doubt in anyone's mind that the work done and funds raised by WIZO are not only well used and appreciated, but vital for so many people.



WIZO Pretoria AGM

### SWITZERLAND

### Zumba & Capoeira

Sabina Pernet and Tal Trost Ben-Hamo of WIZO Zurich organised a Zumba/Capoeira afternoon of dancing and fun. The many children and parents who signed up were treated to a fun afternoon of dancing to up-beat music.



Children enjoying Zumba and Capoeira

### Sponsor A Child in Zurich & Geneva

Forty-five ladies attended a WIZO Zurich Sponsor A Child luncheon at the home of Eva Wyler. Guests were treated to a delectable menu and an interesting and entertaining speech given by honorary guest speaker Richard Schneider, chief correspondent of the German TV channel ARD in Israel.



Guests at the Zurich Sponsor A Child Luncheon

Two hundred supporters attended WIZO Geneva's annual Sponsor A Child evening, held for the first time at the Crans-Montana. Guests included WIZO Switzerland President Anne Argi, Israeli Ambassador at the UN Eviatar Manor and his wife Professor Orly Manor. Esteemed violinist Alexandra Cravero used her humour and exceptional talent to entertain and spread a little fire among the guests. Guests were also treated to a raffle with wonderful prizes, after which they "went wild" on the dance floor. WIZO Geneva is proud of the chaverot who organised the event and the generosity of their guests and sponsors who far exceeded the federation's expectations with their donations and support.



(l to r) Eviatar and Orly Manor, Yael and Jacques Bijo, Lucienne and Lou Kampel

### Opera in All of its Forms

Under the theme 'The Opera in all of its Forms,' WIZO Lausanne held its annual evening of dinner and entertainment at the Beau Rivage Palace in Ouchy. The musical entertainment – which could only be described as something in between virtuoso and humorous – included over an hour of operatic talent and ingenuity by Davide Autieri and Leanna Durney, accompanied by pianist Guy-François Leuenberger. Together, the three entertained the audience with spicy, funny and tender sketches. The evening also included a delicious dinner, an extravagant dessert buffet and an exceptional raffle. Guests included His Excellency the Ambassador of Israel in Bern Igal Caspi and his wife. WIZO Geneva thanks its generous sponsors for making the evening such a success.



(l to r) Leanna Durney, Guy-François Leuenberger, Davide Autieri, Anne Argi

### International Women's Day

In celebration of International Women's Day 2014, WIZO chaverot held a Ladies' Lunch at the Hotel de la Paix in Geneva. President of WIZO Switzerland Anne Argi, Honorary President Ruth Dreyfus and Professor Orly Manor attended the exceptional lunch along with about 100 other guests. President of WIZO Geneva Cornelia Gurwicz Fischer presented the Golden WIZO Award to Ruth Rappaport, Honorary President of WIZO Geneva. Ruth Rappaport is an exceptional woman who WIZO Switzerland sees as an example of generosity and dedication to the children of Israel.



(l to r) Anna Marciano, Julia Nada, Betty Braha, Fabienne Bernheim, Ruth Rappaport, Cornelia Gurwicz Fischer, Stéphanie Benardete, Lucienne Kampel, Joelle Kamp



### Hanukkah Market

Shortly before Hanukkah, WIZO Lausanne chaverot came together to host their annual Hanukkah market, where they enjoyed lunching on a variety of culinary delights prepared by WIZO members and sold for the benefit of the federation's schools. Different stalls displayed a variety of items, from suitcases and jewellery to wine, sweets, toys and books.



Anne (l) & Marion Argi at their gift stand

### UNITED KINGDOM

#### Literary Lunch

A capacity crowd of 170 guests enjoyed WIZOUK's annual literary lunch with author Robert Harris who spoke about his latest book, *An Officer and a Spy*, which deals with the Dreyfus affair. In addition to being a fun and engaging event, significant funds were raised for WIZO's welfare work in Israel.



(l to r) Linda Boxer, Elizabeth Parlons, Linda Glancy, Angela Landau, Michele Pollock, Robert Harris, Jill Shaw, Miriam Borchard, Roger Katz, Loraine Warren

### WIZOUK Annual Quiz@home Goes International

Over 130 teams – including one from Mexico and the USA – participated in WIZOUK's annual online quiz@home fundraiser. Participating teams were challenged to answer rounds of brain teasers, music trivia and general knowledge. The initiative proved to be both an educational and financial success, raising significant funds for WIZO's vocational schools in Israel.



Quiz@home winners in Edinburgh (l-r) Hilary and Arnold Rifkind, Elaine Samuel, Stan Raffel, Lesley John and Jonathan Danzig, Galadriel, Elaine Claire and Ed Levy, Susie and Jonathan Adler, Susie and Dan Kelpie, Joyce and Jonny Sperber, Micheline Brannan, Betsy Dorfman, Benjamin Griffin, Carol Levstein and Tom Griffin

### URUGUAY

#### New Federation President

Although the new president of WIZO Uruguay Sara Laks Trachtenberg was born in Uruguay, she immigrated to Brazil with her family when she was 12 years old. There she lived for the next 45 years, graduating as a teacher of general and Brazilian history. Sara has two daughters and (so far!) one grandson.

Sara was a WIZO volunteer in Brazil's Porto Alegre branch for 25 years, and now she has returned to her roots – her home country Uruguay, where she has found a new home and many new friends, thanks in part to WIZO Uruguay Past President Raquel Lapchik, whom Sara met at a conference in Porto Alegre.

Sara worked as secretary to Laura Rozenbaum during her second term as WIZO Uruguay president, and today she is president!

### USA

#### Atlanta

#### Bridge and Games Day

WIZO Atlanta hosted their Annual Bridge and Games Day at the Bridge Club of Atlanta. Over 100 duplicate and social bridge players as well as mah-jongg and scrabble players enjoyed a wonderful gourmet brunch and high tea, cooked and provided by WIZO members, followed by several hours of playing. The Games Day proved to be the group's largest fundraiser of the year, beating out even last year's highly successful event, due not only to an entrance fee but also to a very lucrative raffle. Everyone had a great time playing their game-of-choice and supporting Israel.



WIZO Atlanta Committee

### Florida

#### Tu Bishvat

WIZO Florida teamed up with Million Trees Miami and Bio Planet to celebrate Tu Bishvat at Haulover Park in Miami Beach. Miami Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez attended the event, which was chaired by Mavi Haime and Mindy Hardoon.



WIZO Florida plants trees in honour of Tu Bishvat

#### Kosher Food and Wine Festival

Over 900 people attended WIZO Florida's first-ever Kosher Food and Wine Festival at Gulf Stream. The event included a special presentation by Israeli Chef Moshe Segev, as well as the delicacies of over 20 local kosher caterers, restaurants and pastry shops. Guests were also treated to delectable wines from 40 kosher wineries from around the world. The successful event was held under the leadership of Jana Falic, Sandra Dunn, Stephanie Esquenazi, George Temel, Ruthy Benoiel, Judit Groisman and Evelyn Faigenblat.



Food and Wine festival (l-r) Evelyn Faigenblat, Gloria Sterenthal, Shoshana Levin, Keila Stiberman, Stephanie Esquenazi, Lillian Tabacnic, Jana Falic, Ruthy Benoiel, Judit Groisman, Sandra Dunn, Janou Perczek, Raquel Eisen



### Special Annual Gala

The WIZO Florida annual gala - co-chaired by Ruthy and Max Benoliel and Judit and Horacio Groisman – was the occasion for awarding WIZO USA Co-President Jana Falic with the Joseph Handleman Light of Philanthropy Award. Guest speakers included world renowned Dr. Oz, interviewed by America's Rabbi Shmuley Boteach. Jana and Simon Falic served as honorary chairs and generously sponsored the gala through the Falic Family Foundation. With 600 guests, the elegant dinner surpassed WIZO Florida's fundraising goals. Idel Woldenberg was the recipient of the Man of The Year Award for his continuous support of his wife, Yvette, and WIZO Yachad's Bee Sweet campaign. As a special surprise, Samuel, Jana and Simon's son, and their nephew Miro, came from their service in the IDF to be present. Jana's daughters, Tila, Lisa and Shena, delivered a very special speech. Many dignitaries were present or sent special message to Jana, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



WIZO Florida Gala Dinner Working Committee

### Community Bat Mitzvah

Thirty-two girls joined WIZO Florida for a community Bat Mitzvah ceremony held at the Diplomat Hotel. The committee was chaired by Carla Fischbach and Yvette Woldenberg with Jenny Klainbaum and Marianne Wiznitzer.



(l-r) Kenneth & Wilma Aschendorf, Dr. Arturo & Caren Constantiner, Mira & Beny Sofer



Florida Bat Mitzvah girls

### New York

#### Sponsor A Child

Over 150 guests gathered at the Ana Tzarev Gallery for WIZO New York's annual Sponsor A Child Evening of Art, chaired by Executive Board Member Wilma & her husband, Kenneth Aschendorf. The evening was co-chaired by WIZO USA Vice-Presidents Caren Constantiner and Mira Sofer alongside their husbands. The reception included a keynote address by Ambassador Ron Prozor, setting the perfect stage for an elegant evening among friends enjoying original art work and delicious food. The guests were also addressed by Evelyn Sommer, Co-Founding President of WIZO USA, who presented Executive Vice President Dr. Mireille Manocherian and her husband Robert with a plaque honouring the playground renovations that they have committed to complete this year and their overall unwavering dedication to WIZO. Gail Perl, Co-President of WIZO USA and Marci Waterman, Chair of WIZO New York also addressed the crowd.

### Long Island Sponsor A Child

Nearly 200 guests gathered at the home of WIZO Long Island Board member Edna & Saeed Amirian for WIZO Long Island's first annual Sponsor A Child evening. The reception included a keynote address by Ambassador Ido Aharoni. The guests enjoyed traditional Persian cuisine as well as a mind blowing performance by world renowned mentalist, Asi Wind, who told the guests that he attended a WIZO institution and would not be where he is today without WIZO. The guests were also addressed by Gail Perl, Co-President of WIZO USA as well as by Bita Sassouni, WIZO Long Island Executive Board member, who presented Edna and Saeed with an award to show appreciation for their dedication to WIZO and its children.



(l to r) Natalie Harounian, Natalie Nejat, Edna Amirian, Gezelle Javaheri, Michelle Ahdoot, Bita Sassouni

### Young Leadership Shabbat

Lauren & Jason Behfarin and Deborah Shnay, past chairs of WIZO New York's Young Leadership, hosted an intimate Shabbat dinner for 60 young professionals at a kosher restaurant in Manhattan. The group of young couples, new parents and singles came together to enjoy dinner and drinks and to hear Evelyn Sommer, Co-Founding President of WIZO USA, share the WIZO story from the very beginning to today. Evelyn painted a full picture of WIZO's vital work and the importance of the involvement of the next generation of young, like-minded philanthropists. Marci Waterman, Chair of WIZO New York, also addressed the group, as well as John Argi, newly appointed Co-Chair of WIZO New York's Young Leadership and the son of Anne Argi, President of WIZO Switzerland.

### Mitzvah Matters

The Mitzvah Matters Campaign, chaired by WIZO New York Board Members Leslie Dezer Salmon and Vice Chair Lizzie Domansky, participated in the RAMAZ Middle School Mitzvah Fair. The fair was organised by the RAMAZ School to introduce families to organisations that can help their children pick a *chesed* project for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Rachel Shnay, WIZO's youngest board member and a graduate of RAMAZ, spoke about WIZO's important work and how the children can get involved. The participating children did an art project that will be sent to Mishpachton (foster) children who live at the Nir Ha'emek Youth Village.



Elizabeth (l) & Olivia Domansky

### Nutrition Brunch

Deborah Cherki and Angela Retelny, Co-Chairs of WIZO Westchester, hosted a brunch for 30 women at Deborah's beautiful home. The group, all new to WIZO, came together for a lecture by nutrition guru Tanya Zuckerbrot, a WIZO New York Board member and author and founder of the *F-Factor*, an innovative nutritional programme. The fascinating lecture on the importance of healthy eating habits and adding fibre to one's daily diet also included nutritious recipes from her book *The Miracle Carb Diet*. Tanya also shared that her grandmother was involved in WIZO Colombia and told personal stories about her involvement with WIZO New York. Evelyn Sommer, Co-Founding President of WIZO USA, spoke about WIZO's history and work, and current events in Israel. Angela Retelny, Co-Chair of the Westchester chapter, shared her 20-year involvement with WIZO and her family ties to the organisation, which includes her mother-in-law Rosita Retelny from WIZO Florida.



(l-r) Alina Nicolayevski, Deborah Cherki, Evelyn Sommer, Tanya Zuckerbrot, Angela Retelny



www.wizo.org

# WIZO Facts and Figures

**50 FEDERATIONS WORLDWIDE**  
**250,000 MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS**

- **14,000 children** (3 months – 3 years) in more than 180 day care centres
  - **1600 children in** 19 multi-purpose day care centres (open from 7am -7pm)
  - **285 children** (6-9 years) attend after-school programmes
  - **166 children** (6-18 years) live in WIZO foster homes
  - **32 children** (4-18 years) In four Neve WIZO homes, therapeutic residences
  - **5,220 youth** (12-18 years) attend eight WIZO schools and youth villages
  - **1,060 at-risk youth** (12-18 years) live in the youth villages' dormitories
  - **27 centres** cater for 380 teenage girls at risk
  - **30 subsidized legal advice bureaus** service thousands of women annually
  - **80 women and 100 children** at two WIZO battered women's shelters
  - **5,340 women** participate in back-to-work programmes
  - **4,500 single** mothers in 86 groups participate in special activities for single parent families
  - **10,000 women** participate in enrichment and empowerment programmes at WIZO centres
  - **WIZO early age hotline** (only one in Israel) to tackle parenting difficulties
  - **WIZO hotline for abusive men**
  - **Treatment and support centres** for families of the mentally ill
  - **Support groups** for the elderly
  - **Support and integration programmes** for new immigrants
  - **45 second-hand stores**
- and more...

