



WIZO IN AN ERA OF CHANGE
We care. We share. We dare.

Chairperson's Office

5th February, 2015
5006 uk Bet Hakerem

Mrs. Jill Shaw,
Chairperson,
WIZO uk.

Dear Jill,

It gives me pleasure to enclose the six month report of the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family which was prepared by Koby Hillel, Director of the Center.

The Center is a source of pride to us all, and of course, is a tribute to WIZO uk.

With warm regards.

Rivka Lazovsky

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky
Chairperson
World WIZO Executive

38 David Hamelech Blvd.,
Tel Aviv P.O.B. 33159, Israel 64237116423711
Tel. 972-3-692-3706 | Fax: 972-3-695-1202
rivkalaz@wizo.org | www.wizo.org



Women's International Zionist Organization
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Dear Friends,

So much has happened since I wrote my last report, that it does not seem as if only six months have passed!

The previous school year closed at the end of June. We were all experiencing the pain of the three families of the abducted boys and we prayed for their safety. Following the discovery of their murders, and just a few days later, the Protective Edge campaign began. Across the country there sirens were sounding. Rather than celebrate their summer holidays, the children had to perform in a new reality, that of being restricted to a sheltered area. WIZO Beit Hakerem remained open continuously. However, the children were forced to spend their days in classrooms, throughout the summer. Many of the male staff were recruited for emergency call up orders and the Center remained in the loyal hands of the women.

Students in the school were on holiday, but the school staff continued to be in contact with the students during this period. The school principal approached the students in a letter which emphasized the commitment of the educational staff at any time, and with any problem, during these tense times, and during the summer holidays.

During normal times summer is the time devoted to preparations for the new year. Just before the outbreak of the Gaza operation a contract was signed with the Jerusalem Municipality for the establishment of a special education kindergarten class for special education children with autism. After making supreme efforts the class opened on the 1st September without any glitches.

This class is designed for eight special education children, and is operated by the Jerusalem Municipality of Jerusalem (including the employment of staff). During the children of the special education class integrate with the children of the Hadar kindergarten. The children play together and share lessons, and activities, such as story time, free play and more. This 'inclusion' is of benefit to all, staff and children. The children learn to recognize the 'different', and develop tolerance and compassion toward others.



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The success of the class has led to the addition of another such class, probably next year.

The new class was established in LEGO complex. Following the establishment of the class the LEGO room was moved upstairs and is next to the Gymboree. The rooms have been tastefully renovated and have enriched the lives of the children in the kindergartens.

After several years of drought in arid Israel, January surprised us with heavy rain and a snowstorm. Unlike last year, the Jerusalem Municipality coped well with the snow. The amounts of snow that fell in the city were modest compared to the amount of snow that fell in various parts of the country including the surrounding areas of Jerusalem. By municipal orders the educational institutions were closed for one day. The Center opened its doors the following day and the team worked tirelessly to complete the school day without interruption, despite the lingering snow.

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Preparing for 2014-2015 – Staff of the Center adopts a new style.

The school year opened with a gathering of all the staff.

We parted from Yaffa Cohen who retired after decades of working with children.

Recognition was paid to the outstanding employees at the Center.

Ms. Michal Gottesman, the principal of the High School, gave recognition to Ms. Kinnereth Munitz, advisor and coordinator of the therapy team in the school.

Mrs. Levana Zabar, the Director of the Day Care Center, gave recognition to Mrs. Ziva Biton, a member of the kitchen staff.

In the second part of the gathering, Dr. Naomi Wurmbrand, Director of the Mahut program, lectured on "The relationship between what is on the table and the attention disorders that are under the table."

Dr. Naomi spoke of "Man"—and what the nature of the attention deficit disorder when it comes to relationships'.

"Parity"--What the nature of the relationship and what is required from the side that suffers from attention deficit disorder within the relationship.

"Spouse" What happens when he meets up with attention deficit disorder within the relationship?.

"And life as a couple"- How to preserve parity in the relationship when attention deficit disorder is involved..

Dr. Michal Rotem, Director of Department of Education in World WIZO addressed the gathering. Dr. Rotem told them about the mobilization of WIZO during the Operative Edge Campaign and how WIZO gave hospitality to the evacuees from the South. She also spoke about the strengthening relationship between the educational staff and the WIZO heritage.

And finally, the kitchen staff of WIZO Beit Hakerem under the capable administration of Chef Tzachi Tapuchi, prepared a delicious lunch for all participants on this special day.

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Visit of the President

The President of the State of Israel, Reuven Rivlin, and his wife Nechama, made a presidential visit to the Center on the International Day for the Struggle to combat Violence against Women. The couple visited the Center for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and the Shelter for Battered Women. The couple heard stories from the women in the Shelter, met the children and gave the children gifts.

Also taking part in the visit was Honorary Life President, Mrs Raya Jaglom, Mrs. Helena Glaser, Honorary President, President of the World WIZO, Mrs. Tova Ben-Dov, Chairman of the World WIZO Executive Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Chairman of WIZO Israel - Mrs. Gila Oshrat, and other guests.



Orna Barbivai, Major General (Ret.) in the Israel Defense Forces and the former head of its Manpower Directorate responded to my invitation to visit WIZO Bet Hakerem. She met with the students who were about to conscript into the IDF at the end of the school year. The Major General told students her personal story. since being a young girl who had to go to work to help support the family, and the story of her military service side by side with starting a family. She faced everything with determination and with her strong belief that she was contributing to the State of Israel.



Orna Barbivai, Major General (Ret.) with student



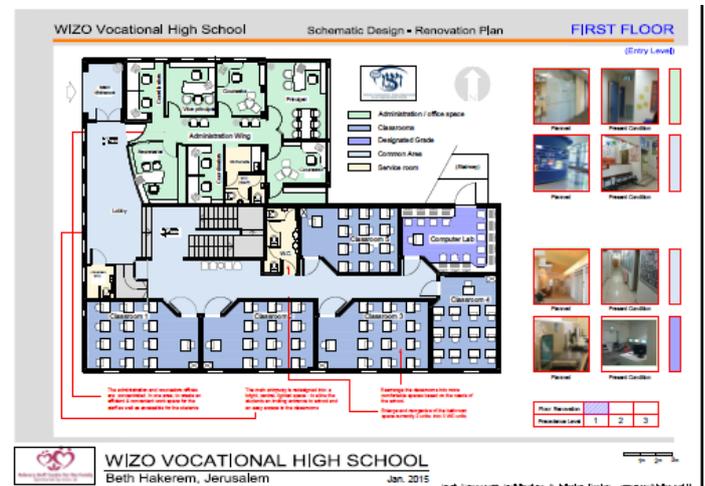
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Renovation of the School

Decades have passed since the school building has been renovated. The structure is outdated with antiquated systems and what was considered good sixty years ago is no longer adequate for today's requirements. A few months ago we took the initiative and created a new work program, to rehabilitate the structure and adapt it to the needs of today. The plan was delivered to an architect with much experience. Within a short time she produced an interesting program that

meets the needs without having affect the structural line of the building. The plan has received the blessing of WIZO and was presented during the Meeting of Representatives to the Executive of WIZO uk. We hope, and believe, that a source of budgeting will be found in order to finance this important project.



WIZO AVIV Seminar:

Participants in the WIZO AVIV seminar visited the Center. 50 AVIV members, from around the world, gathered for a week-long seminar in Israel.

The organizers chose the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center in order to present the wide range of activities of WIZO in Israel.

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Michal Barkai, a graduate of the Women's Leadership Course in WIZO, spoke about the pre army training project which she has established.

The participants, split into five groups of companies and visited the school and the Day Care Center. One group prepared the desserts for lunch with students in a course. A second team learned to make jewelry, two teams participated in activities with the children of the Narkis and Hadar Day Care Centers, and fifth group painted a mural inspired by the book 'Caspian'.



Before lunch the group heard the emotional story of 'S', a woman who had experienced many most difficult crises and for whom WIZO had built a new life. Their visit to the WIZO Center in Beit Hakerem ended with a professional workshop on the subject of 'Marketing and Volunteerism in WIZO'.

Young Leadership from the UK

A group of young leaders from England visited the Center.

Members of the group, young people holding important positions in England, were guests in the study kitchen, and under the instruction of Chef Tamar Bley, prepared a typically Israeli meal. At the end of the workshop, the students of the cookery trend, and the visitors, enjoyed a meal together.



The guests toured the Centre, visiting the academic workshops and day care center. They announced their enjoyment following the visit..





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Shabbat in Israel



Children in the Day Care Center participated in the World WIZO project, 'The Shabbat of WIZO' within the framework of WIZO in Israel and in the Diaspora. It took place on Shabbat Parshat Noah.

A festive 'Kabbalat Shabbat' took place and the clip was sent to WIZO federations around the world by chaverot of WIZO in South Africa.

The Day Care Centers showed how they welcome Shabbat with dancing, a candle lighting ceremony with ' Mom and Dad Shabbat' , blessings over the wine and challah, and Shabbat stories. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKkFsoXKs5c>

Inauguration of plaque in memory of Avril Ann Rowland, z"l.

Family and friends of Avril Ann Rowland z l, a volunteer from WIZO England, attended the the inauguration of a plaque in memory of this active volunteer.

The guests toured the Center, visited the theatre room where the preschool story hour was being held. Afterwards they danced to the sound of songs about winter, with children from the Narcissus kindergarten.



At the close of the visit a modest ceremony was held unveiling the plaque in memory of the late Avril Roland, z"l. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YglSETSk4m0>

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In memory of the late Sylvia Morris, z"l

Relatives and friends of the late Sylvia Morris z"l were hosted at WIZO Bet Hakerem..

The family unveiled a plaque in memory of Sylvia, a long time volunteer, and who was very active in WIZO uk. Family members emphasized her love for Israel and for education. The family chose to perpetuate her name in the Center as a way to perpetuate her name and to illustrate what she stood for. Instead of signifying more than her. The guests visited the Center and saw the workshops. They admired the work and the achievements of the Centre.



Mrs. Nettie Weinberg, a member of WIZO UK, visited WIZO Bet Hakerem with her daughter.

Mrs. Weinberg that celebrated her 90th birthday, which includes 65 years of WIZO membership by visiting the WIZO Center that she still remembered from the days when it served as a Baby Home.



Bridges for Peace

Several years ago I referred to a unique organization- Bridges for Peace.

(Bridges for Peace-An ongoing friendship).

The organization- The non profit organization which includes Christians who support Israel from different countries in the world. Within the framework of their tours to Israel they take part in voluntary activities for various organizations in Israel.

After a break of several years, we were invited to host the "Bridges for Peace." This year a group of women came for two working days. The group worked with lots of energy, and our was completely cleaned and reorganized, new paths were laid and a 'sedge' was set up with the pupils of the school.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOeldnfVpeY>

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"Saving Netta"

A few weeks ago two casual guests walked into our Center. The two were walking in the road, and decided to take a closer look, and they fell in love with the place. Director Nir Bergman, a well known and renowned film director was looking for a venue for that would resemble an army recruitment center. He recognized the potential of the center appears to film a movie. After signing, the project went through. For a whole week the Center become ' a military base'.

Dozens of "soldiers" passed through the staged 'offices' and military command posts. Military-style signs were posted throughout the complex and even staff and employees participated as extras in the film.

The movie, which stars a famous actress, will premiere in about a year.



The School

Integration Day 2014-5

In October, shortly after the holidays, students and staff from the school and travelled to 'Mini Israel'. For a fund day and get together.

The goal of the day was to create a bonding between the students through shared experiences and fun. The day began with the students being given 'treats' by the Student Council of the school.



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Then a delicious breakfast, which each class prepared in advance. They split into groups, according to trends, and took part in simple based on their thinking ability and team work. The missions were built according to different areas in the country. Each area with its own challenge.

In the third part of the students, accompanied by staff members, enjoyed the facilities of the Park and sites not visited during the activity. The students then gathered together, sang songs to the background of one of the pupils who is a celebrated guitarist and took 'selfies'.

Of course, popsicles were welcomed during the hot weather.

Later the Literary Trend was declared the winner of the competition –Well done!

Inauguration of the Mahut Center.

Mahut- The Insight and Empowerment Center in WIZO Bet Hakerem was inaugurated in November in the presence of many dignitaries.



This is the first time that Mahut Insight and Empowerment Center is operating in a special education school. This year included 11th grade students and in the coming years all the classes will be included, and the program will take part in a study-academic evaluation

The ceremony took place in the presence of Dr. Michal Rotem, Director of the Education Department of WIZO and her Deputy, Dr. Laura Landau, Dr.

Naomi Wurmbrand, Founder and Director of the program in Seminar Hakibbutzim, Mr Kobi Hillel, Director of WIZO Bet Hakerem, Ms. Michal Gottesman, director of the school, Ms. Sarita Kogan, Director of h many more distinguished visitokerem

Tribute was paid to the memory of the late Vered Darash, z"l, the supervisor of the school who passed away some weeks ago. Vered laid the foundations for the school nineteen years ago and was behind every new initiative. She is

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missed, especially now when we are inaugurating this new, and substantial, initiative.

Ofek, a student in the Mahut program, entertained the guests..

It was exciting to hear what students on the Mahut program, Oshri and Alon, said about the program and their progress in which they are taking part for the second year.

They said the following:

Alon: "My name is Alon, and I am a 12th grade student .In Mahut

I am learning the rules that help me to meet different methods of learning and different learning strategies. I have come to know myself better.

Last year I learned the theory and passed it for the first time with only one mistake.

This year I've set myself a mission to successful pass the matriculation examinations in as many units as possible. In Mahut I can build a program which enables me to accomplish my goals..

I love to come to the Mahut Center when I have a breaks and hang out with my friends,

In short – Mahut is a great place.

Oshri:

My name is Oshri and I am an eleventh grade students and taking part in the Mahut program.

This is the second year that I am participating in the project.

Last year I learned here in the old rooms. Last year we did not have the Center that you see today.

It is fun come here during my breaks, to spend time with friends, surfing the web on the computers and make myself a drink.

If I have problems I feel like I can come here and talk to staff members.

Also in difficult situations when I need quiet, I come here to relax.

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In short, I want to say that I feel good and I'm glad I can learn here and be a part of this year's program. "

We wish the staff and the pupils a productive and successful school year.

And thanks to the WIZO Education Department, Dr. Michal Rotem to her Deputy, Dr. Laura Landau, Dr. Wurmbrand the founder of the program from Seminar Hakibbutzim.

WIZO Goes for It!

Going for it- World Day was also commemorated in Israel and was held on Tuesday, the 11.11.2014.

About one million Israelis took to the streets and beaches, to take part in the international day in the country. Students from WIZO Bet Hekerem participated in the global project that included walking along 2 km in Beit Hakerem. At the end of the March they also took part in the quiz on sports and health.



A Different Lesson

This year too pupils in WIZO Bet Hekerem took part in a course entitled "The Rules of the Game". The course is taught by volunteers from the Jerusalem District Attorney's Office – Criminal Division.

The "Rules of the Game" includes lessons on law and citizenship

Each week, a volunteer comes to the class and speaks of a different aspect relating to the legal world. The course is varied, interesting and includes trials. In each lesson the students are exposed to many new concepts and to have to think through questions and

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activities of the volunteers. At the end of the activity the classes visit a courtroom and trial prisoners.

The encounter with the volunteers as positive role models, is at the heart of the project. Each volunteer has presents himself to the classroom and devotes time to their personal story and an explanation of how it came to where he is today.

We believe that personal encounter creates the connection between the students and volunteers and encourages them to re-examine their dreams and goals.

'No to Alcohol'

Towards the end of December, which signals the New Year on the 1st January, and the problem of drinking alcohol, it was decided that the theme of the class will be marked "No to Alcohol".

In preparation for the workshops, educators took part in examining attitudes, myths, nclassroom sessions on alcohol smart drinking and more.

In the last week of the month one-time workshops were held for all students in cooperation with the Jerusalem Association on the subject of designing banners.





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Day Care Center

At the end of August, preparatory days were held in WIZO Beit hakerem, ahead of the 2014-2015 school year. They included:

Cleaning and preparing classes for school year, meeting with parents of babies who have been accepted in the Day Care Center, lectures, a V.I.P movie at Cinema City in Jerusalem which included a delicious meal.

Seminar Aviv participants visit the Day Care Center

About 40 women, from WIZO England arrived at the Center and volunteered in a joint activity with the kindergartens.

Hadar and Narkiss Kindergartens hosted the visitors in a common activity with kindergarteners.

Another group painted the mural on the 2nd floor-painting called the story of 'Caspion' In addition they renewed the paintings in the Center.

Young volunteers in the Day Care Center.

It is traditional for girls from a girls high school in Tiberias, to carry out volunteer work in our Center

15 students from the school in Tiberias came to the Day Care Center and worked with the children, learning, teaching and enjoying a three-day experience together.

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Visiting Australian students at Shabbat Party in Shitta and Narkis kindergartens

The Day Care Center hosted approximately 20 students from Australia, who saw the Kabbalat Shabbat ceremony. They saw the children learn about the blessings, Kiddush, challah and sang and danced with them.



The establishment of Educational Exhibitions in the Lobby of the Day Care Center:

Children and their parents in all the kindergartens were asked to prepare a project to hang in the lobby.

Many beautiful projects were displayed including: flowers, vases, cars, LEGO, sweets and ...



We highlighted a particularly beautiful menorah in the shape of the 'monster' slide in the Kiryat Yovel neighborhood of Jerusalem, one of the symbols of Jerusalem.

Hanukkah parties were held in Shitta and Nakis kindergartens.

The parties include a musical activity with singing, movement with the instructor Noa – rhythm and music, followed by activities with the children, Hanukkah songs and stories, and gift for each child for the holidays.

This year we are preparing for Tu B'Shvat, and already see the beautiful almond trees The classes in the Center will celebrate with greenery, plans, a walk in the park, songs and stories. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9-AVoJSHUk>