



Creating A New Tomorrow

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



## Chairperson's Office

Argentina  
Australia  
Austria  
Belgium & Luxembourg  
Bolivia  
Brazil  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Chile  
Colombia  
Costa Rica  
Curacao  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Dominican Republic  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Gibraltar  
Greece  
Guatemala  
Holland  
Honduras  
Hong Kong  
Hungary  
India  
Israel  
Italy  
Jamaica  
Japan  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Mexico  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Panama  
Paraguay  
Peru  
Portugal  
Singapore  
South Africa  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
United States  
Uruguay  
Venezuela  
Zimbabwe

3rd July, 2011.  
(WIZO uk 630)

3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2011  
(Feds, Bet Hakerem 316).

Mrs. Loraine Warren,  
Chairperson,  
WIZO uk

Dear Loraine and Members of the Executive,

As has become a tradition, and in compliance with your request, it gives me pleasure to present this report of the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family, Bet Hakerem, Jerusalem, (sponsored by WIZO uk) for the period from February to July, 2011, as it was sent to me by the Director of the Center, Koby Hillel.

It has been a period packed with events and Jewish festivals and, as the Rebecca Sieff Day approaches in July, I will fill you in on some of those events.

Affectionately yours,

Tova Ben Dov,  
Chairperson,  
World WIZO Executive



*Creating A New Tomorrow*

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



*Chairperson's Office*

A few weeks ago, on the 1<sup>st</sup> June, the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem, we held an unveiling ceremony for a new project in the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family.

Menifa is a non profit organization which works for the benefit of youth at risk. It is about to set up a unique project in the Rebecca Sieff Center. The project will begin to operate with the beginning of the next school year, in the top floor of the Center. At the present time, the floor is being adapted to the needs of the project.

Permission was graciously given by WIZO uk and WIZO USA is participating the use of the floor to the sum of \$50,000 per year, which is helping towards the upkeep of the Center.

### **Solidarity with Gilad and the Shalit Family.**

In March we held a day of solidarity with the kidnapped soldier, Gilad Shalit, together with hundreds of thousands of citizens across the country. At 11.00 am we interrupted the studies, and activities, in the WIZO Bet Hakerem Center for five minutes. The pupils in the school, joined the children in the Day Care Center, and together they sang songs to remember Gilad. The staff at the Center stood on the road, outside, together with the drivers who stopped their cars for five minutes.

To our dismay, Gilad is still imprisoned in Hamas cellars in Gaza. We pray that, by the time you read these lines, he will be reunited with his family.





*Creating A New Tomorrow*

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



### *Chairperson's Office*

Erev Pesach we were honored with a special, and emotional visit. Amanda and Daniella Sieff, the granddaughters of Rebecca Sieff, z"l, together with her great grandchildren, visited the Center. The family was visibly moved, and notably impressed by the Center, and the activities here. We were also very excited to have this warm meeting with the Sieff family in the Center.



Another important visit that took place in June was that of Ms. Berta Sanseverino, who is a Member of Parliament, and in charge of Welfare and Health in the Government of Uruguay, and came to Israel to take part in the President's Conference. She was accompanied by Mrs. Rivka Lazovsky, from the WIZO Division of Education. The visit took place at the same time as a siren was sounded, across the country. The siren sounded at 11.00 am, and, like a well oiled piece of machinery, the staff led 300 children, from the Day Care Center, into the shelters, closed off the electricity, and operated the firefighting apparatus, all within 90 seconds. The visitor was very impressed with the efficiency of the Center. During her visit, she chatted with children in the Day Care Center, about the exercise. The younger ones said that we are getting ready for war. Happily, it was only an exercise, but we had the opportunity to expose the visitor to the security dilemmas of Israel, and how they affect the young children.

### **Carter Family Visit**

Mr. Irving Carter has donated a largesum of money towards a wood etching workshop and area, in the Center. He was visibly moved during his visit to the workshop, and impressed with the work of the pupils. The pupils presented the visitors with pens, which were etched in wood, in honor of their visit.



## Creating A New Tomorrow

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



### Chairperson's Office

Following the workshop, the visitor saw the Exhibition Celebrating WIZO's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which is hung in the library, and the Studio for the Design of Musical Notes, which is presently being completed.

Mrs. Carter asked if she could visit the children in the Day Care Center, and the couple were overcome by the sight of the children, and enjoyed playing with them in the Music Room.



*The wood etching workshop was open to the general public. The course consisted of six meetings, and was under the leadership of a master wood etcher.*

*The pupils voiced their satisfaction with the course, and were sorry when it came to an end.*

*The picture shows the creative touches in making a bowl.*





*Creating A New Tomorrow*

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



### *Chairperson's Office*

The building work for the Musical Note Designing Trend, in the school, has been completed. The new studio, tastefully built, is equipped with the finest electronic equipment for the use of the pupils in this trend. There is already a high demand for the trend, in which the pupils will learn how to produce music, the technicalities, amplification as well as disc jockeying. The studio, like the special Computer Room, will open at the beginning of the next school year.

### **Children from the Shelter celebrate Purim**

This year, as is traditional, we held a celebration for the children in the Shelter. A team of volunteers, from amongst the staff at the Center, as well as students and additional volunteers, prepared the event. There were lottery stands, food stands, and everything was free of charge.

We hope that, in the future too, good people such as these, will continue to donate their time, and money, towards this event.





Creating A New Tomorrow

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



## Chairperson's Office

### School

The school year closed on the 20<sup>th</sup> June. Graduates from the 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and the one year course, held an exciting celebration, to mark the end of the school year.

There has been a marked success in the external examinations. The school entered most of its graduates for matriculation examinations.

41 pupils sat for matriculation examinations in 6 subjects. Some of the pupils sat for more than one examination. The WIZO Vocational School, in Bet Hakerem, is a Special Education school. The school is not obligated to any matriculation examinations. Despite this, the school encourages its students, who have the capability, to sit for extra matriculation examinations as well as the final tests of the vocational trends.

This year, too, we are happy to announce that over 90% of the graduates are enlisting into the army, and/or national service.

### WIZO Celebrates Ninety

The WIZO Center for the Family salutes the WIZO Organization on celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding.

*'My Dear Lady'*

*On Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, at 1.45 pm, (30<sup>th</sup> of Adar Aleph) members of WIZO will gather at a Conference to commemorate the 90 anniversary of the foundation of WIZO. On that day, on which our sisters will unite, we will celebrate the work of our organization.*

*All aspects of the Conference will be fully publicized.*

*If the Conference does not fulfil its function, our movement will be in retreat for many years. It all depends upon the large attendance of our sisters in Jerusalem, where most live. We hope that you will fulfil your duty and attend our meeting.*

*The Committee for the Preparation of the Library*



*Creating A New Tomorrow*

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



*Chairperson's Office*

This invitation, styled on the invitation to the 1<sup>st</sup> Zionist Congress, was sent to guests of the WIZO School in Bet Hakerem, who were invited to take part in a unique celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WIZO's founding.

The school decided to mark the event by describing the activities of three women, Zionists, whose vision and groundbreaking efforts, 90 years ago, formed the foundation for the WIZO movement as we know it today.

The Educational Project, was devised and produced by Dr. Noah Zion, past Director of WIZO Nahalal. It focused upon Rebecca Sieff – the founding mother of WIZO, Dr. Helena Kagan, the founder of the Baby Home in WIZO Bet Hakerem and Dr. Hanna Meisel Shohat, who set up a farm for young girls on the bank of the Kinneret, which later became WIZO Nahalal.

The hall, in which the event was held, was set up as a time tunnel. There were different stations in which the pupils could try the various jobs such as sewing buttons, agricultural training, cooking, diapering dolls instead of babies, etc. Decades old items, such as weighing scales for the babies, washing boards, pans and various tools, from the beginning of the WIZO Baby Home, which have long since gone out of use, were also on show.

After visiting the various stations, Dr. Zion delivered a lecture, in which she described the activities of the three women, and the periods in which they worked.

The activity closed with a lunch, which was prepared according to old WIZO recipes from cook books. The menu included: "Ben Gurion Rice", meatloaf, cooked hummus and cooked vegetables.





## Artist's Day

uring February, pupils from the WIZO Vocational School, held an 'International Festival' in which every class chose, according to various cultures from around the world, to perform a number of styles such as; musical, movement, acting, traditional cookery, according to various ethnic groups.

At the same time, the pupils took part in various workshops, such as: dancing from the East, Hip Hop, Drumming, Theatre, Folklore, Hairdressing, Haute Cuisine, Jewelry, designing masks.



The event closed with all the participants singing the song, 'Together' with the Gaya group.

## Holocaust Day

This year the service of Holocaust Day was organized together with Yehuda Lerner, the father of Judy who is Deputy Director General of the School. He was one of the fighters in the Sobibor Death Camp.

'When all this happened I was a boy of your age. I was the son of beautiful and good parents, I was the second amongst five siblings. We lived in Warsaw, and had a small grocery store.

In the mornings we would go to school, and learn Torah, at lunchtime we would play football. We did not always do our homework, and sometimes we were punished. We lived with our grandmother and grandfather.



*Chairperson's Office*

Grandfather was a Zionist, and passed on to us a great love for the land of Israel, until one day the Germans arrived and closed us off in a ghetto – the Warsaw Ghetto. On my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday the Germans decided to eliminate the Warsaw Ghetto. I was separated from my parents. One minute later I no longer saw my father, or my mother, nor my brothers and sister. I was just 16, the journey in the train carriages continued, we were all standing up, unbearable crowded, hungry, but mainly thirsty, choking, on the verge of fainting.

The carriage door opened amongst various shouts from the Germans who received us: 'Outside! Outside! Quicker! Quicker! Everything looked pastoral and calm but we were in Hell on Earth, and the whole time I was wandering whether I was dreaming it all.

A group of prisoners organized themselves in the camp. Call them the underground, their aim was to prepare a prisoners revolt and a mass escape from the camp.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1943, at 4.00 pm the rebellion began.

I, together with my fellow prisoners, successfully killed 11 SS men on the spot, without anyone knowing. 1,000 Jews ran through the camp and tried to break through the gates and fences. 600 were successful but half of them were shot dead whilst running into the nearby forest, or stepping on mines that had been laid around the camp. Only one part of the camp did not take part in the revolt – those who were already about to be exterminated. Everyone was murdered after the revolt.

Following the escape, they decided to disband the camp, to put to death anyone who remained, and to plant a forest, in case, the Nazi's terrible secret should be discovered – the systematic murder of the Jewish people.

After the revolt the camp no longer existed.

In 1949 I immigrated to Israel, and volunteered to the police. I was a sports instructor in the Police School, and Senior Police Officer in Ramallah. When I retired I devoted myself to my family, and to lecturing, before youth, on those fateful 45 minutes.





### *Chairperson's Office*

Many times we heard the cries of those who were being led to death. During their last moments before entering the gas chambers they shouted out the words:

'Tell the world what the Germans have done! Take revenge on the Germans'.



*The soldiers, graduates of the of school. Visited during the Memorial Day for fallen soldiers.*

### **The Fight against Drugs and Alcohol**

'Alternative' is a project which explains the dangers, and tries to prevent the abuse of drugs and alcohol amongst the youth. The activities take place in an old bus, which is parked in the grounds of WIZO Bet Hakerem. In the bus, the participants watch a film and take part in a discussion on drugs and alcohol – their influence and significance.

The purpose of the project is to encourage each young person to take a personal responsibility for his or her body, to make the right decisions and to be aware of the help that is available by professionals in the field.



## In short

The annual outing of the pupils in the school took place in the Sde Boker area. The outing, in the desert, included challenging activities and climbing steep mountains. The pupils also visited Ben Guiron's hut and learned the teachings of the first Prime Minister. They also visited the Air Force Museum in Hatzetim.



Pupils from the twelfth grade, and the one year course, visited the Supreme Court, as part of their studies in Citizenship. Their visit included a visit to the main hall, a visit to the museum of the Law Court, a visit to a court in session, and they took part in a game, 'Law Trivia', which tested their knowledge, to close the visit.

The pupils of the school visited the Herzl Museum, and learned about the life, and vision, of the founder of the Jewish State.

Another visit was that to the Bible Lands Museum, as part of their yearly program on the subject of the Hebrew language. The special program is to draw attention to the Hebrew language, and the languages that surrounded it during ancient times. The widespread use of words, from other languages, is not only in Hebrew. The program reveals a fascinating journey into various cultures, through the usage of words. It exposes them to the words, ideas and concepts which have infiltrated into the Hebrew language, as a result of our having contact with languages of other cultures.

The pupils visited Yad Vashem and took part in the program, 'From Despair to Hope' about the Holocaust and the Revival.

## End of Year of the 2010-2011 Party.

The end of the year party was held on 20.6.2011 at the David Yellin College. The theme of the party was, 'WIZO – A Mission that is Possible'.



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25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



### *Chairperson's Office*

The party was organized by representatives who took upon themselves to help the pupils with their studies, in order for them to receive a certificate attesting to 12 years of education. It is a complicated undertaking, and demands goals such as successfully passing the examinations of their trend, and undergoing personal change.

The pupils were involved in choosing the theme of the party and its artistic content.

Many pupils wanted to take an active part, on the stage, both singing and acting.

The party ended with the song, 'From Here', which was composed by the pupils of the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The words of the song: 'Here everything began, it will never end, and our hope is that our pupils always remember the significant change that they have made, and the strengths that they discovered, whilst learning in the school.'

We wish all our graduates success in everything they do.

### **The Day Care Center**

'Carers Day' in our Day Care Center has turned into a loved tradition. Once a year we pay tribute to the hard work, and devotion of the carers in the Day Care Center.

The day began with coffee and cake, at the entrance to the Center. In the Lobby we hung plaques that had been prepared by the parents and children, in honor of the carers.

During the course of the day, the carers received an hours free time, when they could enjoy treatment in one of the various stations. Yaffa, who works in maintenance, designed hairstyles, and volunteers massaged their bodies. They were also presented



*Creating A New Tomorrow*

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



### *Chairperson's Office*

with baskets of goodies. At the end of the day the carers visited the Knesset, and then held a barbeque in the Rose Garden next to the Knesset.

Children from the Hadar kindergarten, graduates of the WIZO Day Care Center in WIZO Bet Hakerem, held a concert, with the participation of their parents.

The annual theme for the year was the classical music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. During the course of the year the this learned concepts from the world of classical music, such as: concerto, quartet, opera, symphony etc.

The music was combined with movement and dance using special instruments.

Parents, who attended the performance, were astonished by the creativity and ability of their children, which was demonstrated in their dance and movement.



At the end of the concert, the children and their parents, enjoyed a festive breakfast.

### **Shavuot**

The festival of the first fruits was celebrated in a festive ceremony.

The children, and the staff, came dressed in white, bearing the first fruits, with halos of flowers on their heads.

They all danced, and sang, to songs of Israel.

The event ended with the song, 'He who makes Peace' hoping for peace and tranquility in the country.



## Creating A New Tomorrow

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



### Chairperson's Office

Following the event, the guests were invited to a festive breakfast which was prepared by the kitchen staff. Everyone felt like one big family.

The grandfathers and grandmothers who attended were wished good health, a long life, and many more opportunities to attend and their grand children's parties in the future.



### Personnel who Excelled in 2011.

Three members of the personnel were chosen this year.

**Judy Lerner** – Deputy Director General of the WIZO Vocational School. For her ability to communicate effectively, and her positive influence on the pupils and the parents, including those who are difficult. She is always ready to listen and shows sensitivity. Judy believes in working together to achieve aims, including others in her attempts. Judy believes that every pupil can succeed, and does not give in even when there are obstacles. She always gives support and is a true partner in the process. Judy is full of energy and creativity, and is a positive addition to the school. Everything she does is with conviction, optimism, and determination, she gives respect, love, patience, tolerance and warmth.





*Creating A New Tomorrow*

25th World WIZO EGM | January 2012



### *Chairperson's Office*

**Ruti Shitrit-** Has operated the music courses in the Day Care Center for many years. She proudly transformed her love for music into an educational program in music, for all the children of the Day Care Center. Due to her personal example, and her educational initiative, the Executive of the Center decided to award Ruti with the title of Excelling Personnel for this year.

**Eli Mizrachi** – 'House Father' in the Center, giving the best service to those who use the Center and contributing towards the success of the Resources Unit in the Center. Eli is highly appreciated by his work colleagues, and always receives compliments from those who use the Center.

