

6<sup>th</sup> February, 2011  
(Feds, Bet Hakerem 316).

Dear Friends,

It gives me pleasure to present this report of the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family, Bet Hakerem, Jerusalem, (sponsored by WIZO uk)

With best wishes,

Kobi Hillel.

## **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WIZO**

The Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family congratulates World WIZO on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. Since its establishment WIZO has worked endlessly for Israeli society, from the cradle to old age, in education and towards equality in society.

We, the staff of the WIZO Center, are carrying on the work of the founder, Rebecca Sieff. We wish WIZO many more years of successful endeavors for the benefit of society in Israel.

The WIZO Bet Hakerem Vocational School will hold a special program to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WIZO. The program will include an exhibition and workshops which describe WIZO's work, through the eyes of three women, who were central figures in the WIZO story. Mrs. Rebecca Sieff – the founder of WIZO, Dr. Helena Kagan, the founder of the WIZO Babies Home, and Dr. Hanna Maisel Shohat, the founder of WIZO Nahalal. The program was prepared together with Dr. Noa Zion, who was the past director of WIZO Nahalal.

## **Our Representative in the World WIZO Meeting of Representatives:**

Matan Yerushalmi, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade pupil in the Hairdressing trend, was invited to relate his personal story to the Meeting of Representatives, at the Hilton Hotel. Matan, excitedly, described his difficult journey through life, until he came to WIZO Bet Hakerem. Matan is a perfect example of a pupil who has successfully overcome his numerous difficulties, and is paving a new life for himself, an independent life, with a certain future. Matan, who is now in the last year of his studies, works for his keep during the evening hours, as a hairdresser in an exclusive hair salon, in Jerusalem, and expects to enroll into the army in a few months. At the end of his address to the Meeting of Representatives, he was congratulated and wished every success by the President of World WIZO, Mrs. Helena Glaser, and the Chairperson, Mrs. Tova Ben Dov, and he was presented with a WIZO clip by the members of WIZO in the USA.



### **Occupational safety and health**

Our first activity, at the beginning of the school year, was a training course on the subject of safety. A safety mobile vehicle of the Institute for Safety and Hygiene, was brought to the Center, and provided training to all the pupils, and the staff, during the course of one day. Subjects included preventing fires, the correct use of apparatus, safety equipment, correct use of electricity, etc. The maintenance staff took part in the training, and the staff of the Center participated in a first aid course, with the emphasis on babies and children.



### **Setting Up of a Wood Workshop**

During November a group from WIZO uk visited the Center in Bet Hakerem. The group, under the leadership of Mrs. Loraine Warren, the Chairperson of WIZO uk, and others members of the Executive of WIZO uk, were received in the Shelter for Battered Women and heard about the activities there. They then split into two groups, one visited the Music Room in the Day Care Center, and the children sang 'A Land of Milk and Honey,' to them. The second group visited the teaching kitchen and heard an explanation on the school. The groups changed over and we then visited the new complex for courses, and inaugurated the new woodwork course. The pupils in the course explained how wood is processed, and displayed their work from the previous month, when the workshop had begun. Mrs. Loraine Warren unveiled the plaque on the Donor's Board. At the end of the ceremony chocolate was given out, on a plate that was made in the workshop for the ceremony, and was then presented to a representative of the donors.



Amir, a tenth grade pupil in the WIZO School in Bet Hakerem, proudly presented a table which was built in the wood workshop. Amir has been participating in a course, on etching wood, for two months, under the teacher called Avi. Work on the table took, all in all, just two meetings- one hour each meeting. Well done!

During February the first course will open, for the general public, under the direction of a master engraver.

## **The School:**

The school year opened as normal. Due to the increased demand for the school, this year, according to directives of the Ministry of Education, only pupils from Jerusalem were accepted. Those who live in the villages and towns around Jerusalem were forced to find other special education frameworks. As well as the special education pupils in the school, there is also a one year course for pupils who have dropped out of regular schools, and join the one year course, during which they learn administration or hairdressing.

Following a number of years in which the numbers have dropped, this year 23 pupils applied for the course, twice as many as the previous year. This is a special opportunity for these pupils, their last chance to learn a vocation, and build a normative life for themselves.

The school continues to encourage enlistment into the IDF and we are pleased to report that 90% of this year's graduates enlisted into the army.

This year we are working on a new trend – sound recording, which will replace the administration trend which was in low demand. The new trend will open during the next school year and a new sound studio is being built, which will play an important role in the new trend.



The social program in the school is an integral part of the learning program. We invest a lot of thought and planning in order to expose the pupils to Israeli society, to ethics, and culture, and to strengthen their ties and connections to society and the State.

**I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the social coordinator in the school, Mrs. Ronit Gorney, who was chosen as one of the excelling workers of World WIZO in 2010.**

## **The Fifteenth Anniversary of the Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.**

*....'She sat alone by the window, she did not sleep all night. It is the same longing. One day he did not return.....in November'.*

The 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, z"l, was on 20.10.2010, and was marked by the pupils of WIZO Bet Hakerem. Throughout the course of the week an exhibition was held in a Remembrance Room, which described the life and work of Yitzhak Rabin, as well as other topics related to the issue.

### **Preparing for the IDF**

The Bet Hakerem school operates a preparatory program for 11<sup>th</sup> grade pupils who are about to enlist in the IDF. Mr. Yehuda Navon, an officer in the army, meets with the pupils and discusses their army service with them. Their period in the army gives them the opportunity for personal, and professional development. Pupils, within the period of the workshop, give voice to their thoughts and feelings regarding their army service, and prepare themselves for the challenges that await them in the near future.



### **Meeting with the Chief of Staff**

Within the framework of a project which links between public sector workers and pupils, the Chief of Staff, Gabi Ashkenazi, met with high school pupils in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in Jerusalem. The Chief of Staff, who has met with many high school pupils during his course of duty, especially during the recent period, arrived with the Chief Education Officer, the army spokesman, and was enthusiastically received by the pupils.

Ten pupils of the WIZO school in Bet Hakerem were invited to take part in a visit with the Chief of Staff, and returned with great excitement.

### **Palmach Museum**

The social program in the school puts emphasis on Zionist values and heritage. During the course of the year we organize visits to historical sites. This year the 11<sup>th</sup> grade pupils, and the pupils in the one year course, visited the Palmach Museum, saw a light and sound show, describing the story of the Palmach, since its establishment. The pupils learned the story of the Palmach,

through exercises, the fights with the British soldiers, the Maaplilim, until the War of Independence, which demonstrates the climax of the Palmach's activities.

### **Preventing Violence between Couples**

The school operated workshops of the Center for the Prevention of Violence, and, especially, sexual violence, with the aim of raising awareness of the relationships between girls and boys. The workshops covered: sexual violence, myths and facts, free will in sexual relations, courting, and how to build relationships and sexual relationships.

### **Personal Commitment**

Tenth grade pupils from the school participate in personal commitment program, in which they volunteer in the community. The pupils chose to volunteer in a soup kitchen, where they helped to prepare the food and serve it to the needy.

This is an important tradition which is part of the school timetable, and the pupils learn the importance of giving to others directly.

### **Zarkor – Charlie Chaplin**

Charlie Chaplin also played a part in the social program in the school. Within the framework of Zarkur, in which we raise various issues during the course of the year, we devoted one month to Charlie Chaplin, 33 years after his death.



The 'Journey Room' became a small cinema where the pupils could come, together with their teachers, to watch the short films of Charlie Chaplin. In addition, activity kits were distributed, 'From Interviews to the Cinema in Body Language'. The climax was in Jerusalem, at the Cinemateque, in which they heard a lecture on the link between films which were produced and the links between silent and speaking films.

The next Zarkor will be: **'The Year of the Hebrew Language'**.

The pupils also visited in the Botannical Gardens school, they learned to drive correctly and safely using simulators, etc.



Driving simulator

The end of first semester at the school celebrated a joint breakfast for students and staff. The meal was prepared by cooking trend . School Principal Ms. Michal Gottesman expressed great satisfaction with the achievements of students and school.

## Day Care Center

The biggest Day Care Center in Jerusalem, at the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center for the Family, has grown a little more this year. The school year opened with ten classes, and the babies class 'Oren' was opened following high demand for the Center. Three babies classes joined the '**MA'ON VA'OD**' project. The manpower in these classes will be increased, and the babies have more attention from the staff. A special learning course was designed for the children, and parents, and the old equipment was replaced.

Although the report mentions some safety hazards, we are dealing with them, within the program for safety in the Center.

This year, as every other year, the children of the Day Care Center, celebrated the festivals in original ways. An exhibition of menorahs, in all colors, decorated the lobby throughout Chanukah.



This year, Family Day, fell on 3.2.2011, and prior to this date the children in the kindergarten met with parents, during which time they presented the works that they had prepared for this special day, and enjoyed joint activities.

The Hadar garden is being prepared for the 255<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. A party will be held in the near future, and all are invited.

**Financial Initiatives:**

As we all know, WIZO is facing difficult financial times, which demands changes in priorities and threatens WIZO's activities. We, in the WIZO Rebecca Sieff Center for the Family, continue to try and increase our independent income and cut WIZO's participation in the activities.

By conducting a number of moves we successfully cut WIZO's participation by approximately 40% in the 2011 activities budget

We continually try to reduce one time expenditures and to increase income. This year we absorbed a group of excellent students, from the Hebrew University, under the direction of a leading director of Israeli economy, to determine how we can increase our economic activities. The evaluation process offered changes and streamlining in order to increase activities.

During the second half of the work, the students will develop a program for implementation, placing stress on the Day Care Center.