

13<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

**WIZO Rebecca Center for the Family, Jerusalem**  
**Sponsored by WIZOuk**

Dear friends,

It seems it was only yesterday when the school-year began, and yet a few days ago, our students received their mid-term diplomas. Our excited students gathered in the Cafeteria to celebrate with a delicious lunch prepared by their friends from the school's Cooking trend.

**Early Age Sector**

It was a very intensive half-term. We have been very busy developing our Day Care Center and adjusting it to the changing needs and challenges we are facing in order to offer quality service to the public. We have been trying to be innovative and develop new initiatives to remain relevant and continue to be in demand, while trying to cope with a decrease in resources.

WIZO Beit Hakerem has been leading a coalition of special education public schools which has been striving to match their monetary conditions to those of the special education schools, managed by private organizations and NGOs.



*Knesset, Education committee*

There is a big gap between the budgets allocated by the Ministry of Education to these private institutions and our budgets; these schools receive much more money per student and their teachers have better employment conditions. We have succeeded in launching a petition to the Knesset's Education Committee,



which will be presented as a bill proposal by MK Itzik Shmuli. This proposal has the backing of nearly half of the Members of Knesset.

These days, our struggle is entering a new stage as we are being faced with new financial expenses, we need to reverse this situation, this is the reason we are submitting a legal petition to the High Court of Justice.

If we win our fight to change the present situation, it will bring about a significant improvement of the conditions in which special education schools work.

## Visits

- **Visit of MP Ian Austin (Member of the British Parliament)**

We hosted the visit of MP Ian Austin, from the British Labor Party, who was joined by Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, Chairperson of World WIZO.

Mr. Austin is a keen supporter of Israel and is well acquainted with WIZO's activities in the UK. He was deeply impressed by all the activities done in the WIZO Rebecca Center for the Family, and promised to continue working for Israel. This is indeed our best Hasbarah tool!



- **Visit from WIZO Sweden**

We also hosted the visit of a group of from WIZO Sweden, who had their very first visit to our facilities. Their visit came after they heard from Yael, our social worker, about the activities in our Shelter for Battered Women. The shelter is undergoing renovations and all the activities are currently being held in an alternative location in Jerusalem. Afterwards, Koby Hillel,



Director of the Center, explained about the activities at the Baby's Home and at the WIZO Rebecca Center for the Family. This visit left a very good impression on them, and they highly praised the work done by the UK federation at the Center.

- **Various other visits**

We also hosted the visit of the President of WIZO Italy and her Vice-President; of a "Leadership for the future" group from WIZO Israel; from a youth group from Australia who took part on a Kabalat Shabat in our DCC; a visit from the Aviv Seminar who came for learning and experiential activities; a mission from Evangelist Christians from the USA; guests from Chile and the teachers and administrative staff from CHW Hadassim Youth Village who came to learn about the unique activities at the WIZO Rebecca Center for the Family.

In the beginning of the year, we unveiled a plaque in honor of the son of Mrs. Shirly Levinson. This moving ceremony was directed by Prof. Lazovsky, and was graced with the presence of important guests, Chaverot from WIZOUk and past and present presidents.





### **A "special" National Service**

Our working relation with The Bat Ami Organization, who recruits graduates from special education frameworks to join the National Service Program, is growing strong. This is the third consecutive year we receive young disabled people for voluntary work in our center. The youngsters work in our DCC or do maintenance work.

This partnership is very successful and fulfilling for all those who are involved: for the youngsters who find a warm and supportive place to do their voluntary work, for Bat Ami, who has found a place that is willing to take in these youngsters, and for our Center, which recruits them and most importantly, helps them in this important stage of their life.

Last year, we employed five youngsters suffering from mental and social disabilities.

### **Team work**

Our administrative staff organizes once in a while team group activities. During Rosh HaShana and Yom Kippur, we did a Slichot Tour in the old neighborhoods of Jerusalem. Our tour-guide was a young man who came from an ultra-Orthodox family and as he grew up, he turned secular. He was able to tell us about the complexity of political and religious views within the Haredi (ultra-orthodox) world.



## School

We opened this school year in a very high note. For the first time in many years, the school facilities were renovated. The teachers room was transferred to a bigger and more spacious room; three study classrooms of the twelve grade students were renovated, the toilets were also renovated and a new dairy kitchen was built for the benefit of students of the Cooking Trend.



We hope that we will secure a way financing a general renovation of all our facilities.

- **A brief summary of the activities at the school:**

1. **Enrichment activities at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel** - The students of our Cooking Trend visit once a week the new Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Jerusalem. This initiative was made possible a year ago thank to Mrs. Jana



*Students and mentors at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in Jerusalem*

Falic, Co-President of WIZO USA, and the support of Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, Chairperson of World WIZO.



Our students work in the kitchen under the guidance of the hotel's professional chefs. For the students, this is an important step in their professional career, as it provides them with important tools and experience for the future.

**2. Team Building Day** - We opened the school-year with a special



activities day at the Aminadav forest in Jerusalem. During this day, our students engaged in O.T.D. activities and cooking in the field. These activities were aimed at stimulating collaboration, personal and group empowerment, team-work, strategic planning, interpersonal and group communication, listening skills, etc.

**3. "Archery Activity"**- Our students took part in an archery activity as a mean to prepare them to write their Personal Student Plan. The activity provided them with tools to learn to plan in advance in order to achieve their goal. This is an excellent mean to teach them to know themselves and discover ways to achieve success.



*Gdna - preparation for military service*

**4. "Klaf Menatza'ach" – "Winning Card" (active-learning courses)**

– is program that offers academic enrichment courses at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The program is aimed at 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, who are the first people to pursue an academic path in their family and have shown interest in one of the topics covered in courses. The topics include: psychology, business management, law and medicine.



The program is based on active-learning model that includes interactive, experiential and enjoyable curriculum. The students receive food, drink and transport to the university's campus and the best study conditions to study in order to encourage them to enjoy the experience and pursue further education in the future.

All courses offer students a range of unique experiences, including tours, new experiences and projects.

For WIZO Beit Hakerem students, this is a one-in-a lifetime opportunity to discover the academic world and explore new and exciting career options.

5. **Positive Thinking** - This ONG was created in 2003 in order to bridge the gaps in the Israeli society by using technology. The ONG operates computer centers in the community and offers courses to the public to teach computer proficiency. Our students learn how to use the WIX platform, one of the most popular programs to learn how to build web sites. This course is an excellent basis to begin to learn computer programming and how to develop digital media.

6. **"Shiur Acher"** – Different lesson: this ONG strives to create a bridge



between professionals and school students by involving them in the educational system. Our students meet with the volunteers of this ONG to learn about new and interesting fields and get familiarized with volunteerism and social involvement.



The volunteers of this ONG work with our eleven grade students in a program called "The Rules of the Game", a weekly meeting with lawyers where the students learn about the law and judicial system, with an emphasis on the meaning of democracy and how to behave in a democratic society. We chose this program to reinforce our Citizenship studies and provide a wider focus on this theme.

**7. "Emotional Driving" Workshop** - Road safety is one of the most



important means to save lives. The goal of this workshop is to increase awareness among drivers and avoid car accidents by ways of reducing stress and anxiety. In this workshop, the students learn how

to cope with external influences like music, distractions and other technologies.

**8. Science Museum** - Organized visits to the Museum – for nine and tenth graders to tease their curiosity and interest in science.



**9. Israel Museum** - Workshop on "Local Identity" for tenth grade students, towards receiving their Israeli IDs. The students learned about our national symbols and the link between the Jewish and Israeli identity.



10. **Yad Vashem** - As part of the history class, the twelve graders visited Yad Vashem.

11. **Annual School Trip** - Every year our students go out for a two-day trip. This year, we visited the Dead Sea area and the Yehuda Desert. During the first day, we visited Einot Tzukim and the David Stream, the second day we climbed Masada and visited Nachal Bokek. In the evening, we organized a party for the students at the foot of Masada.

12. **Haircut Contest** - the students of the Hairdressing trend took part in the annual Haircut Contest organized by the Ministry of Economy. This year's contest hosted 650 participants from more than 30 schools, who competed in Hairdressing, artistic Make Up, and beauty care.

13. **"Noflim Bareshet" Performance ("Falling in the Net")** - This singular performance combines a theatrical show and a lecture dealing with youth violence, with an emphasis on cyber bullying.

14. **"Hanachsol" Performance** - As part of their history class, the twelve grade students went to see "Hanachsol. The plot of this play centers on a high school teacher who sets out to teach an important lesson in history in a unique way. He decided to enlist his students into a social experiment in which each of them is experiencing how a group can give up their freedom by choice and be blindly led by an oppressive tyrant who sets out to discourage any type of independent thinking. They learn how oppression, tyranny and fascism are not just terms they learn in history class but real phenomenon that can take place in every classroom, and in every society.



### **Day Care Center**

Last year we finished the school-year with our very popular annual summer camp. At the same time, we were busy preparing for the beginning of the school year. This year, the registration to the DCCs began unusually late (due to the Governmental bureaucratic reasons), which caused a delay in notifying parents whether their children were admitted to the Day Care Centers or not.

### **Renovation of Bathrooms**

During the Succoth break, we were able to renovate the bathrooms in two of the kindergartens, we still need to renovate the bathrooms in 5 remaining classrooms. We hope we will be able to perform the needed renovations soon.

### **Other activities**

As we do every year, 15 girls from the Ulpana in Tiberias came for a study week at our facilities and a tour around Jerusalem. We placed them in our different kindergartens, organized for them various activities and meetings, art workshops and more. We hope they enjoyed this learning experience.

### **Staff Training at the Day Care Center**

The theme of this meeting was "Team Work", it took place in the afternoon, after working hours. Ora Landa, Vice Director of the Education Division was in charge of this meeting.

This is the first of a total of five meetings that will take place during the school-year. This training is aimed at teaching staff about constructive feedback, how to communicate with parents, etc.



## **Chanukah**

We organized a colorful Chanukah fair in the lobby of the Day Care Center which included a display of Chanukyot designed by the children and their parents. Some of the classrooms also organized parties for the children and their parents, or parties only for the children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfWdKXx0ciU&feature=youtu.be>

## **Visiting Australian students at Shabbat Party in Shitta and Narkis kindergartens**

The Day Care Center hosted approximately 50 students from Australia, who took part in the Kabbalat Shabbat ceremony. They saw the children learn about the blessings, Kiddush, challah and sang and danced with them.

## **Registration for the next school-year:**

We are already preparing the Day Care Center for the next school-year. We have been organizing open days for new parents and preparing the registration process. We are also beginning to create new and creative content and materials for the next school-year. One of the leading ideas we are developing is a "Green Classroom". The main focus of this class will be ecology and care for the environment.



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

**Chairperson's Office**



### **Tu Be´ Shvat and Family Day**

As we do every year, we will celebrate Tu Be´ Shvat and Family Day. Our green gardens is the perfect environment to celebrate the family Day.