



20<sup>th</sup> July, 2016

## **WIZO Rebecca Sieff Center for the Family, Jerusalem Sponsored by WIZOUk**

Dear friends,

The events over the last few weeks have reminded us all that we live in a small world. Hundreds of millions of people have been spending these weeks watching the UEFA Euro football tournament on the television, and soon our eyes will be set at the Olympic Games in Brazil. Alongside these great sportive events, we keep hearing and watching the terrible news about the ongoing terrorist attacks around the world, the uncertainties in different markets and the instabilities caused by the historic referendum in the United Kingdom, which saw the majority of the country vote to leave the European Union.

Back here at our Center in Jerusalem, we are well underway with the preparations for the next school year. You can hear the drumming of the different renovation works, including repairs made to meet health and safety standards, and the construction of 3 brand new classrooms.

The dairy kitchen is being built where the carpentry once stood and has now been moved to the art classroom. We have built a new dance studio, which will help us increase our revenues, and at times will serve as a conference room, which we have been in need of for such a long time.

We hope that the whole renovated complex will reflect the wonderful educative work that is being done here at the WIZO Rebecca Sieff Center.



Women's International Zionist Organization /  
for an Improved Israeli Society

# WIZO IN AN ERA OF CHANGE

We care. We share. We dare.



## Chairperson's Office



*WC cabins*



*Dairy kitchen*



*Dance Studio*



*Teachers Room*



*Classrooms*

This summer, WIZO marks its 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and it is very difficult to imagine what Israel would have looked like without the immense and vital contribution of WIZO and its federations to the success and development of our young Jewish state. Our center, which is named after WIZO's founder Rebecca Sieff, wishes our organization many years of wonderful efforts for the benefit of the society in Israel.

**WIZO – Women's International Zionist Organization for an improved Israeli Society**

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## WIZO Beit Hakerem Secondary Vocational School

We have just concluded a successful year at our school. The visit of Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat to our school, a few months ago, marked the Municipality and the city's appreciation of our work.

At the end of the visit, WIZO Beit Hakerem Secondary Vocational School was shortlisted for the Education Ministry's award. Later, our nomination was ruled out because we have already won the award a few years ago.

The graduation ceremony was very emotional. We were delighted to host Prof. Rivka Lazovsky, the Chairperson of World WIZO, and Mr. Igal Dekel, General Director of World WIZO. The graduates uploaded a video, where they talk about how much the school has meant to them. We were all moved to see the students and teachers shedding a tear and hug at the certificates ceremony.

### • Manat Krav (combat rations) Gourmet contest

The most exciting moment for us over the past year was when three of our students, Elio Cohen, Inbal Bublil and Tal Luzon, from the cooking program won a national culinary contest.

For a couple days, our students, accompanied by our teacher Chef Tamar Blai, competed at the Tadmor Hotelier School in Herzliya Pituah against vocational schools from across Israel. We were thrilled when they returned with the wonderful prize after coming first in the competition, where they cooked the best and most creative dishes from ingredients that are usually included in the IDF's combat rations packs.



They impressed all the chefs, including head Chef Shalom Kadosh, and won the prize after scoring the highest points in each of the categories of the competition.

Shortly after their excellent achievement, our students were given the chance to once again show off their cooking skills, when they prepared dinner for guests from WIZO Florida at the luxurious Waldorf Astoria Hotel. This was also a great and unique opportunity for them to cook with the Hotel's famous Chef, Itzik Mizrachi.



They received this wonderful chance thanks to WIZO USA Co-President Jana Falic who made the link between the management of the Hotel and the Center.

The management visited the Center earlier this year and they were left so impressed that they agreed to partner up with our school's cooking trend and offer placements for a number of our students every year. These placements will be offered to students starting next school year.

Ofek, one of our 12<sup>th</sup> graders, also sang at the dinner event and received great applause for his performance.

## • **Machshava Tova**

Over the past year, we have been running a website-designing program at the nearby Yad Sara building. The program is designed to expose teenagers from vulnerable families to the wealth of the digital world they often lack when they grow up.

This program builds their confidence in order to help them later to compete for prestigious high-tech positions against others who were often raised with the latest technological devices. The course encourages our students to explore and develop their knowledge and skills. As part of the program, the students displayed their products and visited the offices of WIX, an Israeli start-up company which is one of the leading website-designing companies in the world.

## **Events at the school**

### • **ID cards ceremony**

Last April, our 10<sup>th</sup> graders received their first Israeli ID cards in a lovely ceremony at the Mount Herzl in Jerusalem.

Before we left to the site, the students watched a couple of videos that covered the greatest achievements in Israel's relatively short history since 1948. After the videos were screened, the students discussed the meaning and responsibility of being an Israeli citizen and about how proud they were.





When we arrived at Mount Herzl, we visited the Herzl Museum, which exhibits the life of the great Zionist Leader and about his great efforts to create a country for the Jewish people. When we walked around the site, it was clear the students were moved by the experience and by the significance of the place for our people.

The ceremony itself was held later that day, when students received their IDs. Judy, the Vice Principal, delivered a warm speech to all the students, in which she told them she has every confidence they will become proud and engaged Israeli citizens.

## • Holocaust Memorial Day

Every year we remember those who were taken away from us – the six million Jews who perished in the hands of the Nazis. Litzkor Ve Lo Lishko'ach ("Remember and Never Forget").

This year, the ceremony marked the wonderful dedication of the *Righteous Among the Nations*.

The Vice Principal Judy Lerner, the daughter of two Holocaust survivors, said she has vowed to cherish the memory of the Holocaust and of those who were lost through the story of her father Lion Lerner Z"L, one of the leaders of the Sobibor Uprising, who later escaped to Israel and joined the IDF, from where he retired as a decorated officer. Judy told her father's story with so much pride and emotion, she described her own life as a daughter of Holocaust survivors and how it has affected her life and role as a mother and grandmother.





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**Chairperson's Office**

- **National Memorial Day Ceremony**

This year's ceremony centered on the Battle of Shuja'iyya on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 as part of the Protective Edge Operation, when an IDF Armored personnel carrier was hit by an anti-tank missile, killing 6 Israeli soldiers and one went missing. The ceremony was dedicated to Oron Shmoel, whose body was never retrieved from the burning tank. We celebrated his life through his family and through the stories and



songs about him, which were read by our students.



Every single student was moved by the story of his life and legacy.

Like previous years, our alumni who are now serving in the IDF were present at the ceremony.

- **WIZO Band**

The band, which was formed at the beginning of the school- year, has expanded to five members, and has become very popular at the school. The band is a creative platform that encourages students to work in a group and helps them advance themselves and their ambitions.

- **Empowerment workshop**

This year is the second consecutive year we are running an empowerment workshop for teenage girls together with the Jerusalem Association for the Fight Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

Each workshop consists of 10 sessions with an instructor and coaches, where they provide our teenage girls from our school with tools to deal with challenges they may encounter in their adolescence years. These situations deal with addictions, self-destructive behavior, coping with stress related situations, relationship with adults in their lives, seeking help in emergency situations and more.

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- **Safe Driving**

*Safe Driving* is one of our flagship community projects in partnership with Hadassah Medical Center. Our students are taking driving lessons which teach them how to drive safely and responsibly.

The Or Yarok ("Green Light") association for safer driving in Israel organized the classes for our 12<sup>th</sup> graders, which included lectures by Prof. Avi Ribkind, an orthopedic physician and social worker.

During the lectures, our students learned about the recovery processes following car accident, the causes of such accidents, preventive measures to decrease the risk of being involved in a collision, the long recovery process, and the effect of the accident has on the lives of those involved and their families.

They also met a person who was involved in a car crash, when they heard from first-hand about his injury, the recovery process and the difficulties in coping with the trauma from the incident. They also had a visit to the Trauma Center.

## Day Care Center

- **Good Deeds Day**

Simon, our janitor, is also our painter. To celebrate "Good Deeds Day", he made a lovely painting on the wall of the playground of the Hadar kindergarten. The family of one of the DCC's children volunteered to complete the drawing together with the other children.



*As we say: "Mishenichnas Adar Marbim B'Simcha" – "When the month of Adar arrives we shall increase our joy."*

We celebrated Purim when children of all classes gathered around in the lobby of the school, dancing to some of the most famous Purim songs.

Every child received Mishlo'ach Manot – our festive Purim basket, which included all sorts of delicious food. We also prepared wonderful Mishlochai Manot to send to women's shelters and to IDF soldiers.



- **Ein Yael Living Museum**

Children from Tikshoret and Hadar kindergartens went on an excursion to the Ein Yael Living Museum – a special outdoor museum that gave us a glimpse into life in ancient Land of Israel. This is one of the various activities we are organizing with the two DCCs which are aimed at bringing together children with autism spectrum disorders and children from regular education classrooms and help them accept and respect one another.

The children were thrilled by the experience and enjoyed the chance of preparing their own pita bread, discovering some of the ancient ruins and seeing some of the stunning frescos.

- **Day Care Center Open Day – תשע"ז –2016-2017**

The enrolment process for the next school year opens already in February the previous year. As part of the preparations, we hold an open day, every year, for 100 parents who are considering enrolling their children to our Day Care Center.

We took the chance to introduce the prospect parents to all our activities and services and took them on a tour around the facilities, which including a visit to the Legoland, the music room and the theater.

When the actual enrolment day opened in May and proved just how successful this open day was. It also proved how highly valued our Day Care Center is by parents in the city.

The high demand, which exceeded the available places in the Day Care Center by 50%, meant we sadly have to turn down many applications this year.

- **Passover Seder**

We celebrated Pesach in its full glory in all of our kindergartens. Our kitchen staff prepared all the traditional Passover delicacies: Matzot, Charoset and many others. The children sang and danced to all the famous Passover songs.

We also toasted for a happy Passover and offered festive snacks to parents who came to celebrate with holiday with their children.



- **Independence Day Ceremony**



Yom Ha'atzmaut is always a special day when our children wear white and blue to rejoice together and cheer our young nation.

The children held Israeli flags, sang songs and released blue and white balloons – wishing for a blessed time for Israel and for our capital Jerusalem. It was an emotional day full of happiness and joy.

- **Shavuot ceremony**

As we do every year, our children were accompanied by their grandfathers and grandmothers at our traditional Shavuot ceremony. The children offered their grandparents the Bikurim – the first fruits of the harvest, a famous symbol of Shavu'ot.

We then all had a taste of the delicious fruits together, which was followed by a lively dance of 100 grandparents with their grandchildren. They all praised our work and thanked us for invitation to spend a special Shavu'ot day with their grandchildren.

- **Summer Camp – תשע"ו - 2016**

The Day Care Center's summer camp, which will have the participation of more than 120 children, will be held between the dates of 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 and 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. It will offer different fun and enriching activities, food and educational programs.