

# The **WIZO** **Reporter**

FOURTH ISSUE

SPRING 2022



**WHAT  
YOU  
NURTURE  
GROWS &  
FLOURISHES**



**WIZO GROWING  
BRIGHT FUTURES  
ALL THROUGH  
THE SEASONS**

Dear Friends

As the last few months have allowed us a window of some normality, I am delighted to have had the pleasure of meeting so many volunteers and to have been able to attend three in-person events: the Sponsor A Child lunch, the Young Writers' Competition prize giving ceremony, and the Literary Lunch, all a great success, and despite Covid restrictions raising close to £70,000. Congratulations to everyone involved!

A highlight since my term of office began has most definitely been the opportunity to spend time with World WIZO Chairperson, Anita Friedman, during her visit here in October. It was wonderful to be able to tell her of our plans for taking WIZO forward and to hear first-hand how our projects in Israel are faring since events of the last couple of years presented so many additional and traumatic challenges. Anita reassured us that not only has WIZO succeeded in continuing its existing obligations to those in our care, but has responded to the emergency needs for those whom WIZO became their only hope.

I was proud to share with Anita the dedication of our groups and supporters around the country during these testing times and how the unique strength of WIZO women, allowed us to generate funds to meet our commitments.

I am truly astounded as to the diversity of the events organised by WIZO groups around the country, whether via Zoom or in person, when permitted. Everything ranging from car rallies, raffle draws, interesting talks on every subject imaginable, teas, and so much more.

It was this determination and generosity that enabled us to raise funds for our traumatised students during our 2021 Rosh Hashanah appeal. Going from pandemic to conflict, these students had experienced extreme anxiety and uncertainty. These funds are enabling us to provide specialist trauma therapy and to upgrade bomb shelters to provide furnishings, first aid kits and basic creature comforts to make the stays in these shelters less daunting.

Our more recent appeal at Chanukah followed on from the two literary events last year. The first, the Young Writers' Competition, in partnership with the Jewish News and PJ Library, inviting entrants to tell us what courage means to them, and the other, our annual Literary Lunch, when investigative journalist John Ware, a WIZO trustee, was in conversation with political editor and author, Robert Peston.

Funds raised from these events and the Chanukah appeal are going towards WIZO's literacy programme, the Pyjama Library which every month provides over 6000 children at WIZO Day Care Centres with a specially chosen book. Whilst for most of us the ability to read and the joy of books is part of our everyday life, for so many of the children in WIZO's care, books are a luxury and the book they receive from WIZO may well be the only book in the home.

As we enter 2022, we look forward to continuing to write happier new chapters for all those for whom WIZO is their best chance of a fulfilled future. With your help, we can write many more volumes of WIZO success stories, changing lives and building futures for generations to come.

I would like to extend a personal and heartfelt thank you, to each and every one of you, for your unfailing passion in helping those in WIZO's care who so depend on us.

Thank you for your time, enthusiasm and energy, for your amazing fundraising efforts and all you do to ensure our vital work continues, supporting the vulnerable and disadvantaged, and in so doing, strengthening Israel society for all.

*Annabel Stelzer*



Annabel Stelzer  
Chair WIZOuk

## Rebecca Sieff Day & AGM

Although, unable once again to hold our AGM and the highlight of the WIZOuk calendar, Rebecca Sieff Day in person, it was nevertheless fantastic to see so many faces on screen at this major event on 7 July 2021.

As usual, the AGM was held in the morning and closed with outgoing Chairperson Ronit Ribak-Madari reflecting on her three years of leadership, the highlight of which was the truly life-changing sum raised through the Spring Into Action crowdfunding initiative and the impact of the collaboration between professionals and volunteers.

In her new role as President, Ronit was delighted to announce the appointments of new Hon. Vice Presidents Pamela Crystal, Susan Cresswell and Gill Woodbridge, and also wished incoming Chair Annabel Stelzer every success.



Chair Annabel Stelzer, President, Ronit Ribak-Madari.

The day continued with Rebecca Sieff Day which, although on screen, was still upbeat and full of atmosphere and emotion. In her opening address, Annabel referred to the fact that she is a fourth generation WIZO woman and talked of her plans for building on recent achievements to reach a wider and younger audience.

Major highlights of the afternoon were our two wonderful guest speakers, Caro Ran, Regional Manager for WIZO Day Care Centres in the South of Israel, and genealogist Jessica Feinstein.

Caro described the impact of the pandemic on the little ones who attend WIZO's Day Care Centres as they struggled to adapt to the constant changes which lockdown and the conflict had brought over the past 18 months.

The recent barrage of rocket attacks highlighted the need to ensure that all bomb shelters at our schools and youth villages are equipped with basic comforts and distractions to minimise the stress of spending hours in these shelters, often at a moment's notice.

As was evident on the screen, Caro Ran's description of her work with Day Care Centres clearly moved many to tears.



Caro Ran and Jessica Feinstein.

Jessica Feinstein's fascinating presentation 'Who Do You Think You Are?' used Rebecca Sieff's family tree, identifying milestones in Rebecca's life to demonstrate how we can trace our family roots and heritage. Many members of the audience were truly inspired to research their own roots and contacted Jessica after the event. We are so grateful to our members, groups and supporters who continue to carry Rebecca's torch, especially through these more challenging times.

The real stars of the day were the award winners: The **Rebecca Sieff Award** went to Carole Gillow, Ellen Earle and Dr Kate Schnelling. The **Lily Sieff Award** went to Hanni Seifert, the **Susi Bradfield Aviv Award** went to Birgit Freinkel and Sarah Levy, the **Women of Worth Award** went to Sandra Curran, Leora Erez, Lydia Freedman, Rae Ingleby and Michelle Levin and the award for the **Professional Team Member** went to Nicky Jayson. Congratulations to them all!

Our next AGM and Rebecca Sieff Day will be on **Wednesday 6 July 2022.**

# WIZO Never Standing Still



L-R: Susan Cresswell, Hon. Vice-President, Ronit Ribak-Madari, President, John Ware, Trustee, Maureen Fisher, CEO, Robert Peston, Annabel Stelzer, Chair, Michèle Pollock, Hon. President and Loraine Warren OBE, Hon. President.

Whatever the social restrictions over the past few months, WIZO's perseverance has won through with group and central events continuing to take place across the country. Some on Zoom and others in person allowing us to enjoy each other's company at last.

In early July, Carmel WIZO members were able to get together for a delicious afternoon tea in the garden of Denise and Gerrard Journo's home. This lovely event was organised by Denise and her two sisters, Suzi Loofe and Lisa Davis, daughters of founding member Valerie Berkeley. The afternoon was dedicated to the memory of treasured member Shirley Ellis, with a moving tribute by her daughter Gillian. Carmel WIZO was founded over 60 years ago and it was wonderful for everyone to be together under one roof, a welcome marquee keeping the rain out, for one of the first in-person WIZO group events since 2020.

In August, Olim WIZO took a group of members to the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in London to see Carousel, and Redbridge WIZO members went on a coach outing to Eastbourne. August also saw Michael Dickson, Executive Director of StandWithUs

in Israel and author of "ISResilience: What Israelis Can Teach The World" address our North Cheshire WIZO group about post-election Israel and how StandWithUs helps students on campus in the UK and US. A fascinating and informative discussion.

Southgate WIZO members were entertained on Zoom by Brian Nathan chatting about and playing 'Music From The Musicals' and Westcliff and District WIZO enjoyed the second part of nostalgic reflections with Michael Bennett talking about his father, East End celebrity Boris Bennett's photography during the golden age of Art Deco.



L-R: Maureen Fisher, CEO WIZOUK, Lauren Hamburger, UK Director PJ Library, Ariella Garren, Daisy Williams, guest celebrity judge Ivor Baddiel, runner-up Daniel Shaw, Annabel Stelzer, Chair WIZOUK and Fran Wolfisz, Jewish News.

WIZO's first central 'in-person' event since the start of the pandemic was the Young Writers' Competition prize giving ceremony in conjunction with the Jewish News and PJ Library. The competition invited pupils of primary and secondary school age to submit poems or stories capturing their ideas or impressions of "courage". Guest judge Ivor Baddiel presented the winners and runners-up, along with their respective schools, with their prizes of iPads, books and tokens.

In the primary category, Daisy Williams from Leeds, won with her poem about a boy overcoming his fear of dogs. Ivor Baddiel said "I like that this teaches us how courage can mean different things to different people...for someone, patting a dog is the easiest thing in the world, for someone else, it's the hardest..." Abi Zinkin was the runner-up with her story on bullying which Ivor said was "well written and very relatable for children".

In the secondary category Maya Garren's story of antisemitism through the eyes of a schoolgirl won her first prize and Daniel Shaw's inventive poem to be read either top to bottom or bottom to top, earned him the prize of runner-up.

October saw the very welcome return of WIZOUK's significant annual Sponsor A Child Lunch, co-hosted by Hon. President Sarah Glyn and Hon. Vice President Pamela Crystal, at Tony Page's Island Grill in London.

The event which raised more than £40,000 was held in honour of Betty Crystal who founded Sponsor A Child some 20 years ago and it has since become a major fundraising activity for WIZO federations around the world.

This was the most international Sponsor A Child Lunch to date, attended by honoured guest Tzipi Hotovely, the first female Ambassador of Israel to the UK, and guests of all ages from the UK, Israel, Austria and other WIZO Federations.

Guest speaker from Israel was Anita Friedman, Chairperson of World WIZO who spoke about how delighted she was to be in the UK, the birthplace of WIZO more than 100 years ago, established originally with the aim of helping women and children in pre-state Israel. She added that WIZO had become the largest welfare organisation in Israel, empowering women, educating children and



L-R: Pamela Crystal, Hon. Vice President WIZOUK, Anita Friedman, Chairperson World WIZO, Sarah Glyn, Hon. President WIZOUK, Tzipi Hotovely, Ambassador of Israel to the United Kingdom, Annabel Stelzer, Chair WIZOUK and Ronit Ribak-Madari, President WIZOUK.

youth and improving the welfare of disadvantaged citizens from all sectors of society. Although Israel is globally regarded as a high-tech nation, "if you scratch below the surface... many Israelis live in poverty and the education gap between populations is growing – only deepened by the pandemic. Now more than ever, vulnerable populations are reliant on WIZO's assistance."



Winners of the Shemesh Aviv Car Rally

Shemesh Aviv motored on with their commitment to fundraising with their Hertfordshire car rally in October. Suzanne Anisfeld and Irving Boxer worked extremely hard planning the route and clues which were challenging but great fun, followed by delicious refreshments made by Brenda Saffer and Gloria Besser. "Changing gear", to celebrate Chanukah, Shemesh Aviv played bingo over Zoom.

The Oxford WIZO AGM was followed by guest speaker Sivan Ya'ari, founder and CEO of Innovation Africa, a non-profit organisation which brings Israeli solar, agricultural and water technologies to African villages. In her enlightening and informative talk, Sivan spoke about how she has been working in Africa for more than 20 years, and in the past



L-R: WIZO trustee John Ware and author Robert Peston

decade, using Israeli technologies, has brought clean water and light to over three million people across ten African countries.

Oxford WIZO also welcomed Anita Friedman to meet members and supporters of their very active group, as well as students from the university who had the special opportunity to hear all about WIZO from World WIZO Chairperson Anita Friedman, Annabel Stelzer Chair of WIZO<sub>UK</sub>, Ronit Ribak-Madari, WIZO<sub>UK</sub> President and Maureen Fisher, WIZO<sub>UK</sub> CEO.

In November Chamanit WIZO held another successful virtual bridge afternoon and WIZO<sub>UK</sub> held our first in-person annual Literary Lunch for two years, attended by 130 people. There was great excitement in the room as people met and re-connected with old friends.

Guest author and broadcaster Robert Peston was in conversation with WIZO trustee, investigative journalist John Ware, discussing Robert's latest bestseller, *The Whistleblower*. During an observational, fun and informative afternoon, the audience listened to two leading political and economic reporters, discussing the lines between fact and fiction in Robert's new book.

This very successful event, raised over £16,000 for WIZO's literacy programme, the 'Pyjama Library', runs throughout all 183 WIZO Day Care Centres. This initiative gives children a new specially selected book every month, instilling language and reading skills, Jewish values, as well as strengthening the parent-child bond through the shared experience

of reading together. Reading and owning books is something that many of us take for granted, but for many low-income families and immigrants, who benefit from this programme, the books they are given each month are the only books that they have at home.



Books from the Pyjama Library being read in a WIZO Day Care Centre

"Lords and Ladies" graced us later in November as Lord Anthony Grabiner QC told tales of life, laughs and surprises at the Bar to Southgate WIZO and Lady Carnarvon joined Manchester WIZO once again to talk about her new book and share how Highclere Castle celebrates and changes each season.

Recently Oxford WIZO gained its newest member, Gabriel Freinkel. Aged just six years old, Gabriel is officially WIZO's youngest member. From the minute he was born he has been attending meetings with his mother, Birgit, committee member of Oxford WIZO. Birgit would often ask if the meetings could be held at her house so she was able to put Gabriel to bed, but who often attended some of the meetings before going to sleep! Last year Birgit, her husband Allan and Gabriel made aliyah.

Gabriel has always been a keen supporter, helping organise the stationary and books for the very popular Quiz@home and always attends zoom meetings. Prior to Covid-19 restrictions, Gabriel fundraised for WIZO by hosting a cream tea.

Gabriel likes being a WIZO ambassador because, "WIZO helps adults and children...It is important

that children help other people, so they can learn to support more children." He has some wonderful ideas that could bring children together across the world making them feel safer, happier, with more friends, all in support of WIZO."

Gabriel is a true credit to his parents as well as WIZO and we wish him much success with all his fantastic ideas.



Mill Hill WIZO has enjoyed enormous success with its '£100 raffle' held in memory of longstanding and treasured member Barbara Finegold. The prize at the halfway point of the raffle in July was £200 and for the final draw, £400. This innovative initiative has raised over £20,000 which will enable Mill Hill WIZO to dedicate a room in WIZO's Day Care Centre at the Barzilai Hospital, in Ashkelon in memory of Barbara and her husband David. Congratulations to organisers Ros Preston, Merlis Cohen, Myrna Young and Marilyn Podro for all their hard work in this outstanding achievement.





# News From Israel

## Child's Best Friend

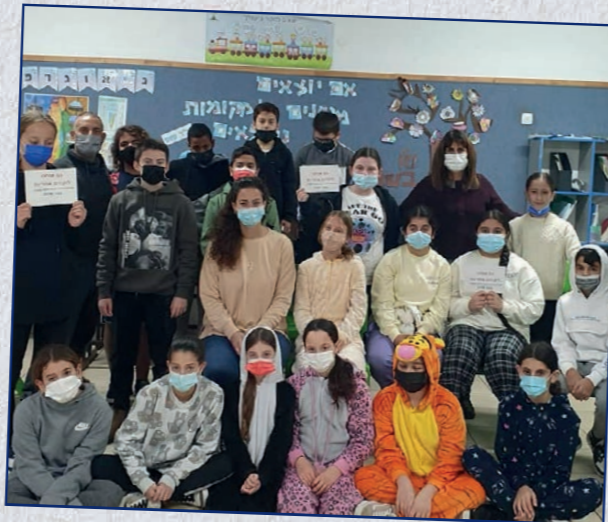
The children of WIZO Ahuzat Yeladim face many challenges in life, greatly exacerbated by the pandemic. The emotional and psychological benefits which children gain from interaction with animals are well known and so the school launched the "Ace Dog Training Programme". School principal Olga Yalzarov said:

"The Ace Dog Training Programme is one of the favourites of our children here at Ahuzat Yeladim. Among the many benefits of participating in this programme, are the opportunities youth have to learn skills for life such as unconditional love, responsibility, compassion and trust."



## Taking Responsibility

The Hadera WIZO Israel branch has launched a new initiative "Taking Responsibility", aimed at harnessing the power of community activism in the fight to eliminate domestic violence against all ages. This programme is the brainchild of Aliza Koniak, a social activist and graduate of WIZO's women's leadership programme in collaboration with the Hadera Municipality and a coalition of community organisations. Fifty community volunteers took part in an eight-session training workshop developed by WIZO's Division for the Status of Women. Participants were trained to be community ambassadors, enabling them to enhance a sense of personal safety and resilience in the community in the fight against all forms of violence. A huge success, the programme will be implemented in another elementary school in Hadera in the near future.



## WIZO Ranked One of Israel's Best Employers

In a wide-ranging survey by business newspaper "Globes" to determine Israel's best employers, WIZO ranked #3 amongst public institutions and #102 among 1,800 companies and organisations studied. 200,000 employees from wide-ranging industries and sectors were asked numerous questions about their employer and work environment, such as salary, work-life balance, development potential and promotion prospects, social atmosphere, equipment, and employer reputation. The survey, taken last summer, when WIZO was dealing head-on with the Covid-19 pandemic, makes WIZO's outstanding ranking even more impressive.

## WIZO celebrates Family Day at its Day Care Centres in Nahariya, Carmiel, Haifa and Beersheva.



# Breaking The Cycle Of Violence

In December 2021, the Knesset approved a ground-breaking law in the battle against domestic violence. The new law - initiated, written and advanced by WIZO - requires judges to order Israeli men, who have had restraining orders issued against them to receive mandatory behavioural and psychological treatment. This will affect some 10,000 men each year, and will undoubtedly save lives and untold suffering to thousands of women, children and families.

This law further evidences WIZO's crucial role at all levels in combatting such abuse. The organisation already runs the only men's helpline of its kind, to assist violent men in taking responsibility and getting the help they need. Many violent men lack the tools they need to cope with their anger. The unprecedented advice helpline, which receives around 1000 calls every year, staffed by trained volunteers, provides initial support and encouragement and guides the men towards the next best step to deal with their anger management.

The bill, drafted by the head of WIZO's legal aid service, was passed as a temporary order for five years and will come into effect in May 2023. This delay is required in order to recruit the dozens of social workers needed to provide a professional opinion in advance of the treatment and implement suitable treatment programmes.

This radical step was achieved by WIZO in partnership with the head of the Knesset Committee for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality, MK Aida Touma-Sliman.

In her statement, MK Touma-Sliman echoed the message and holistic strategy that WIZO has promoted and fought for over many years: "This law sends the message that violent men are able to stop their violent behaviour...With this law, Israel is saying that it will not only address the symptom, which is violence, but will also address the cause."





**LAUNCHING SOON MARCH 2022 - MARCH 2023.**

**WIZO**  
Changing Lives · Building Futures

# WOMEN LEADING THE WAY TO A BETTER FUTURE

With more than 100 years of experience empowering and protecting women, WIZO has always championed the safety and rights of women and girls in the home, on the streets and fought gender 'inequality' in the workplace.

With the levels of abuse and violence reported to the police having rocketed globally, exacerbated by the Covid-19 lockdowns and limitations, WIZOUK chooses to focus at this time on the dangers, inequality and injustice facing women and to promote the major contribution and value they bring to benefit society and make the world a better place.

This campaign seeks to support the plight and potential of women everywhere, to share WIZO's knowledge and expertise and highlight the vital and dynamic areas of WIZO's work addressing these issues.

# Jewish Women's Week

JWW 1947-2022  
**75**  
YEARS  
OF WOMEN  
LEADING THE WAY

Jewish Women's Week was established in 1947 by Rebecca Sieff and Erna Patak, initially as a ten-year campaign to raise money to help refugees start a new life in Israel. In that first year, an incredible £50,000 was raised. In Erna's own words "through personal contact the Jewish woman can do what the written word can never do".

75 years later, women all over the UK continue to knock on doors (more recently, keeping up with the times, 'virtually') to raise the vital funds needed to create a better future for thousands of disadvantaged and vulnerable people who depend on WIZO. Rebecca and Erna would no doubt be truly astounded that their door-to-door campaign has run for so many years, raising over a phenomenal £11 million!

We would like to thank JWW Chair Joanna Wulwik, the captains and all the volunteers, current and previous, for all their hard work and dedication in going out (in all weathers) and collecting such an extraordinary sum of money.

**Here's to the next 75 years of the unique and wonderful work of Jewish Women's Week.**

**WIZO**  
THE WIZO 2022 MIXED GOLF DAY

Following on from the enormous success in previous years of the **WIZO mixed Golf Day**,

this year's event will take place on **Thursday 12 May at Hartsbourne Golf Club.**  
**Tickets are £125 per person or £500 per team and include full breakfast, halfway house and lunch.**

For more information and to book please contact **Emma Yantin emma@wizouk.org** or call **07931 573765** or visit **wizouk.org/events.**  
**Book now to secure your place.**

**WIZO**  
Changing Lives · Building Futures

# Give Disadvantaged Teenagers The Gift Of A Bar/Bat Mitzvah

A Bar/Bat Mitzvah is a rite of passage for any teenager. However, for many boys and girls in Israel who come from low socio-economic and/or disadvantaged backgrounds, WIZO is their only hope that this will not be just another date on the calendar but a day to remember.

WIZO ensures that nearly 1000 vulnerable young people a year have the opportunity to celebrate their heritage and this significant milestone.

Supporting this programme is a wonderful way for those more fortunate, enjoying a dream family celebration to mark their special occasion.

...And raising funds can be fun or challenging!! Whether a sponsored walk, a mountain climb, a cake sale or a football tournament...or whatever the interest or hobby.

**Funds raised will ensure:**

- equal opportunities for all
- a young person to attend a programme strengthening their Jewish heritage
- an opportunity to have an aliyah to the Torah
- a visit to a Jewish heritage site
- a festive meal
- a gift such as Siddurim, Tallit, candlesticks or jewellery

The cost for one Bar/Bat Mitzvah to attend the programme is approximately £550.

Individual items on the 'shopping list' range from £50 - £250.

Should there be a particular interest such as sport, music or dance, WIZO has specific opportunities to mark this special occasion by donating to provide much needed related items in our schools and centres.



L-R: Briah and Yakir

As a thank you on behalf of the hundreds of young people such as Briah and Yakir being helped by the kindness of others, WIZO will acknowledge your Bar/Bat Mitzvah's special day with a certificate, siddur and personal gift. On this once in a lifetime joyous occasion you can help change a life.

**To register and for more information please email Nicky Jayson [nicky@wizouk.org](mailto:nicky@wizouk.org)**

# The power of WILL can CHANGE a World...

**WHAT YOUR LEGACY CAN DO**



Classroom and gym before



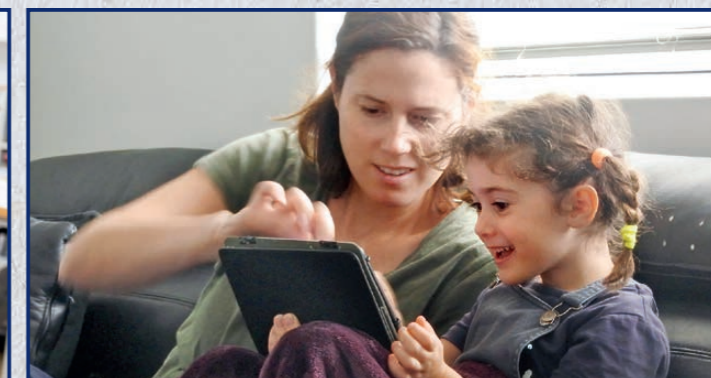
Classroom and gym after

Through the decades legacies to WIZO have enabled ongoing investment in our vital work ensuring adequate facilities, teaching and social welfare programmes and life-changing technology, to meet the evolving needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged Israeli citizens in our care.

Many supporters generously include a gift in their will for WIZO once they have made adequate provision for their loved ones. We can assist with making that gift by providing a free will writing service. A legacy donation can also be of benefit when it comes to inheritance tax.

Legacies are the pipeline that gives certainty in times of uncertainty. In strengthening WIZO's resilience your legacy will help ensure we can continue to be there through all the decades to come, changing lives, building futures and strengthening Israeli society for all.

## Southgate Legacy Sponsors Ground-Breaking App



A generous legacy from a member of Southgate WIZO helped sponsor a digital app developed at the WIZO Vocational High School in Jerusalem. This ground-breaking app tracks the educational and social development of youth with special needs and was chosen by the Israeli Ministry of Education as one of the top innovative educational ideas of 2021.

**For further information about leaving a gift in your Will to WIZO, please contact: [legacy@wizouk.org](mailto:legacy@wizouk.org) or call 020 7319 9169.**



# Mazel Tov

## To the following on their special celebrations!

### SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Marilyn Brummer  
Mildred Davis  
Amanda Evans  
Jack Feldman  
Aileen Goldberg  
Lorraine Jaffe  
Angela Landau  
Barry Saipe  
Marilyn Scott  
Sonia Strong

### BAR MITZVAH

Allegra Crystal  
Hannah Ison

### SPECIAL MENTIONS

Marlene Shaffner birth  
of a great grandchild

### SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Sylvia & Arnold Black  
Frankie & Jeffrey Galinsky  
Harriet & Peter Galgut  
Maisie & Ian Holland  
Miranda & Michael Kitchener  
Jennifer & Walter Speculand  
Cynthia and Neville Tolkin  
Norma and Stuart Weinberg

### REBECCA SIEFF DAY AWARDS

#### Rebecca Sieff Award

Carole Gillow  
Ellen Earle  
Dr Kate Schnelling

#### Lily Sieff Award

Hanni Seifert

#### Susi Bradfield Aviv Award

Birgit Freinkel  
Sarah Levy

#### Women of Worth Awards

Sandra Curran  
Leora Erez  
Lydia Freedman  
Rae Ingleby  
Michelle Levin

#### Professional Team

#### Member Award

Nicky Jayson

## WIZO Cards & Certificate



WIZO have a range of wonderful greetings cards for all occasions; grandchildren's Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, birthdays, mazal tovs and more!  
Available to purchase.

Celebrating a special occasion or know someone who is? Send them a certificate in their honour whilst donating to WIZO. Available in a wide selections of designs.



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