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The **WIZO**  
**Reporter**  
SECOND ISSUE



**MASTER CHEF...  
A VISION FOR  
A BRIGHT  
NEW FUTURE**



# Our WIZO Family

**In 1992** The Queen referred to what had been for her an 'annus horribilis'. There is no doubt that across the globe this is an annus horribilis for all!

Whilst we are of course concerned about WIZO's work in Israel, and committed to supporting those who depend on us through this crisis as best as we are able, we are also mindful of how this situation is affecting our members and supporters here at home and their families and friends. **WIZO's strength** has always been that **we** are a **family** and this is a critical time for families to look out for each other.

We will be in regular contact as far as we are able, and as the situation allows, letting you know how

we are moving forward to support Israel. Most WIZO projects are of course closed, as they are under lockdown, but there is still work to be done and a vital need.

We will also keep you updated on activities we are putting together to inform or entertain you, although, for obvious reasons this will be via social media or our website for the time being.

Meanwhile stay safe and well, a Kosher L'Pesach and we look forward to seeing you all at WIZO events in the not too distant future when this modern day 'plague' is just a distant memory!



## Jewish Women's Week 'KNOCKdown'?



In light of the current situation and the fact that the majority of our collectors are in their 70's and self isolating for 12 weeks, let alone the current lockdown, no one will be knocking on your door for your donation in May or June or even possibly July. Those of you on our Head Office mailing list will have already received a letter since we were ahead of ourselves and they were ready to be posted. Rather than send a cheque we would prefer you to donate online. For those of you on door to door collection rounds, please don't wait until July or

August for a knock on the door as we do not know when JWW can happen this year. Please make your donation online at [www.wizouk.org](http://www.wizouk.org) and follow the link to 'donate', and select the desination of 'Jewish Women's Week 2020'.

We are now three weeks away from knowing everyone's true hair colour. Since we are unable to go to the hairdressers please consider '**Going Grey for WIZO**' and donate the cost of your tint/colour/haircut to JWW this year.



# “I am a nurse, everyone of us is needed. Thanks to WIZO I can work”



In today's new reality of the coronavirus pandemic, the only WIZO Day Care Centres operating are those on hospital sites. The children who generally attend these Day Care Centres are from the vicinity, together with the children of key hospital workers.

However, currently, WIZO is answering the call to provide supervised day care for the children of the doctors, nurses and other medical personnel, and has mobilised its care entirely towards these children. Their parents, who are on the front line of the battle against coronavirus, have one less worry, knowing their children are taken care of while they are working, enabling them to focus all their efforts on their patients.

“In normal times, if there was no day care, I would leave my kids with their grandmother, but now I can't,” said Anat, a nurse at the hospital. “It's heartbreaking really,” she says, “my mom is so disappointed that she can't help me. She desperately wants to see her grandkids, but is in isolation because her age makes her vulnerable to infection. I have a hard time explaining to her that it is for her own good. I worry about her.”

“Here, I know my kids are being taken care of, entertained and educated. They get a good meal and are completely safe. One less thing to worry

about!” Anat said. **“It is reassuring that the Day Care Centre staff take our temperature before we are can leave our kids. I welcome these health checks obviously, and I can start my working day feeling positive. Simply put, without the WIZO Day Care Centre I just would not be able to work. I cannot leave them with my neighbours, or even my sister who lives close by. Social isolation is not something to be ignored. I am a nurse, every one of us is needed. How can I not work? I am so grateful to WIZO.”**

Anat's children, aged 4 and 6, attend a local nursery and school, which are both closed at the moment.









# WIZO20

SEEING WHAT OTHERS DO NOT SEE

## In these critical times...



across the globe it is imperative that medical professionals and key hospital workers are able to continue performing their vital work. WIZO has many **Day Care Centres located in hospitals** in Israel. There, children of these dedicated individuals are looked after in a safe environment allowing parents to focus on their vital, often life-saving work. These Centres **MUST** remain open. In other WIZO Day Care Centres which have had to close, they have been the only chance for vulnerable children to receive a **hot meal**. WIZO's **food campaign** will ensure nutritious meals continue to reach these families throughout the crisis. **WIZO's Children, Israel's Children, Need Our Help!**



Please donate now, as much as you are able to  
**[www.wizouk.org/donate](http://www.wizouk.org/donate)**



 **WIZO**  
Changing Lives · Building Futures



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# World WIZO celebrating 100 years of "Doing What Matters"



WIZO.  
Doing What Matters

**World WIZO** launched its 27th EGM in January 2020 with a week full of moving, exciting and memorable moments. In a grand show of global sisterhood, nearly 1,000 WIZO leaders representing 48 countries came together to celebrate WIZO's vital work.

Professor Rivka Lazovsky World WIZO Chairperson from 2012-2020 presented her report covering her eight years in office.



WIZO graduate Shahr Ariel shared his moving story. Shahr was having a difficult time at school until his life changed when he started attending the WIZO High School in Rehovot. It was there that Shahr developed his skills for graphic design and is now Chief Creative Officer of a strategy, branding and marketing company. Shahr is one of the thousands of WIZO alumni giving back to WIZO using his skills and talents. "It's an honour to give back to WIZO," he said, "because WIZO gave me so much."



Introducing the WIZO delegations from around the world, at the opening session of the 2020 WIZO EGM at the Tel Aviv Hilton hotel.

A special surprise as Micaela Ziv and Dr. Sarah Anne Meron, two of the granddaughters of the 'founding mother' of WIZO, Rebecca Sieff, shared special memories of their grandmother. Fittingly, representatives of WIZOUK's Chairperson Ronit Ribak-Madari (far left) and President Michèle Pollock (far right), presented them with honorary certificates on behalf of WIZO.



World WIZO Honorary President Tova Ben-Dov delivered an emotional welcome followed by an address by World WIZO President Esther Mor.





Dynamic speaker Elyezer Shkedy was 15th Commander of the Israeli Air Force from 2004-2008 and CEO of El Al until 2014. For several years he has served as the chairman of 'Heroes for Life', as well a mentor for social, educational, and ground-breaking start-ups on a voluntary basis. Elyezer shared inspiring stories both from his Air Force days and his personal life experiences, receiving an overwhelming standing ovation from the audience' at its conclusion.



No visit to Israel is complete without a visit to Judaism's most sacred site, the Kotel (Western Wall). The EGM delegates toured the Kotel tunnels where they experienced a special feeling of togetherness.



## WIZO @ 100 - A Stunning Evening of Celebration in Jerusalem

Legendary performer Yehoram Gaon and the inspirational Shalva Band (below) were among the many highlights of 'WIZO @ 100 - An Evening of Celebration', which was held at The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The evening showcased the talents of current and former gifted WIZO musicians and dancers who all had the audience on their feet singing and dancing.



US Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman addresses the audience. Legendary performer Yehoram Gaon who had hearts a flutter.



From Be'er Sheva in the South to Haifa in the north, the day of touring brought chaverot from around the world to the grass-roots level of WIZO's work.





Thanks to the WIZO Graduates Association, founded by Professor Rivka Lazovsky, thousands of WIZO graduates are giving back to the organisation in which they were educated and shaped in order to influence and improve the social situation in Israel. Diana Shor (left), a graduate of WIZO Nahalal with other WIZO alumni in the WIZO Graduates Association.



Three outstanding young women were awarded scholarships in memory of Michal, Yitzhak and Harela Modai. Michal Modai, who served as the fourth president of World WIZO from 1996-2004, set up a scholarship fund in memory of her husband Yitzchak, an influential Israeli politician, and in memory of their daughter Harela who was killed in a traffic accident. Among her many accomplishments, she established the first of WIZO's shelters for women who are victims of domestic abuse.



The three Modai Scholarship recipients were: Yasmin Avrani - a 15-year-old graduate of WIZO's Otzma Tzeira (Young Strength) programme which empowers teenage girls through the arts. Her scholarship will go towards studies at the music conservatory in her hometown of Ashkelon.



Eden Ben-Shitrit - Eden spent 11 years living in Neve WIZO which is a foster family community consisting of 5 houses. Run by foster parents, each Neve WIZO house is home to 8 children from the ages of 3 to 18, who were removed from their families due to their parents' inability to raise them. Eden is now an independent 26-year-old woman living on her own studying biology at Bar-Ilan University. The Modai Scholarship will help Eden finance her university studies.



Tal Ofri - A 21-year-old graduate of the Hadassim Youth Village, Tal was born and raised in New York. Tal made aliyah with her family when she was 10, but due to family problems, she found herself living and studying at Hadassim, which in her words "became my real home" from the age of 13-18. Now Tal is a first year BA student in Business Administration at the College of Management. The Modai Scholarship will help her finance her studies. Speaking on behalf of the three scholarship awardees, Tal said, "Without everything WIZO did for us, we would not be where we are today".

The EGM audience was treated to a special surprise as WIZO's founder, Rebecca Sieff, suddenly appeared and addressed the audience as if she had journeyed 100 years into the future from 1920 to today. Actress Natalie Blenford portrayed Rebecca Sieff. A spotlight was shown on Sderot, where residents live under constant threat of rocket attacks. Following a video showing WIZO in Sderot, the Mayor of Sderot, Alon Davidi, delivered an emotional address of thanks.







Daniel Birnbaum, Chairman of the remarkable SodaStream, was interviewed by Emily Frances of i24 News and delivered an inspiring fireside chat. "Here's the first key to our success at SodaStream, and I am sure this applies to WIZO as well. It's about people - empowering the people," Birnbaum explained. He went on to share that 2,500 people of all religions and backgrounds work at the SodaStream factory in southern Israel. "Come and visit," Birnbaum said, "you will see what peace looks like. I tell the workers that in these buildings you manufacture peace every day!"

Lifting their voices in song, WIZO chaverot from around the world joined together to sing the iconic Israeli song 'Hallelujah' in three languages!

Professor Dan Ariely, (below) Professor of Psychology and Behavioural Economics at Duke University, who in 2018 was named one of the 50 most influential living psychologists in the world, delivered a captivating talk about how can we help ourselves live up to our potential and behave better.



A series of TED-style talks hosted by the founder of Future Formats, Maya Elhalal, featured co-founder of Virtuozo Abigail Tenenbaum, Neve WIZO graduate Eden Ben-Shitrit, and Major A, a female combat navigator, Squadron 210, Israeli Air Force. "WIZO flows through my veins," said Abigail. "My grandmother was active in WIZO in Argentina starting in 1926. Her life revolved around WIZO."

Moderator Rolene Marks, Head of Public Diplomacy and Hasbara at World WIZO, hosted a thought-provoking panel featuring three distinguished guests: Michael Dickson (left) - Executive Director of Stand With Us Israel, Paul Hirschson (centre) - Former Israeli Ambassador to West Africa and Frank Melloul (right) - Founder and CEO of the international News Channel i24 News. "After this session we feel a lot more motivated," Rolene said in her closing remarks. "We are not just a sisterhood, we are an army! We women can be warriors for Israel and the Jewish people!"



Another highlight of the EGM was welcoming the newly elected members of World WIZO's executive committee, including re-elected World WIZO President Esther Mor and newly elected World WIZO Chairperson Anita Friedman.

The last event on the EGM schedule was a grand closing celebration featuring a delicious dinner followed by performances by students from WIZO youth villages. World famous mentalist Lior Suchard served as the host, delighting the crowd with his amazing mind reading abilities.



He was followed by one of Israel's most popular performers Einat Sarouf, who had the entire audience on their feet singing and dancing to classic Israeli songs. It was a fantastic way to kick off World WIZO's centennial year.





## THE PRESIDENT'S CELEBRATION TOUR APPLAUDING 100 YEARS OF WIZO CHANGING LIVES AND BUILDING FUTURES

**1- 5 NOVEMBER 2020**

Led by Michèle Pollock, President WIZOUK



**For more details contact Stephanie on: T: 020 7319 9169 E: [central@wizouk.org](mailto:central@wizouk.org)**

### The WIZO Reporter

PEOPLE AND PLACES

# Story writing

2018 saw the launch of our story writing competition in conjunction with the Jewish News and PJ Library. The many responses were extremely creative; however 2019's theme of 'perseverance' surpassed all expectations with responses flooding in and imaginations truly being unleashed.

First place in the primary school category was Cain Panas, aged 10, from Hertsmere Jewish Primary. Runner-up was Zara Teacher, aged 10, from Akiva Primary School. Secondary school category winner was Ariella Goldstein, aged 14, from Hasmonean High School for Girls, and runner-up was Freyde Sayers, aged 17, from Forest School. The judging panel selected a shortlist from more than 130 entries from across 23 schools and consisted of Lauren Hamburger, Director of PJ Library in the UK, Loraine Warren, WIZOUK Honorary President, Lydia Drukarz of Wavelength PR and Francine Wolfisz, Jewish News features editor.

A special presentation evening recognised the winners who were presented with iPads for themselves and their schools too, thanks to sponsor Orit Lev of Mamilla Architecture & Design, and the runners-up and their schools received book

vouchers. All the finalists also received goodie bags from PJ Library.

Ronit Ribak-Madari, said: 'WIZO is committed to encouraging young people to 'persevere' with their goals enabling them to enjoy success and be the best they can be. So perseverance was the perfect theme for us.'

Orit Lev said: "Mamilla was thrilled to be a part of this wonderful competition. Story writing is not so far removed from our work in architecture and design - constructing a unique and compelling shell and ensuring the technique and flair that gives it heart."





# News from our groups

## Liverpool Revive

In November 2019 Liverpool Revive held a very successful book evening at the home of Judy and Jonny Cohen in Liverpool. Their guest speaker was Liverpool born Linda Grant - Orange Prize winner and Man Booker Author. Linda spoke about her life and also read from her latest novel, 'A Stranger City'. £1,300 was raised.



Liverpool Revive - Linda Grant

## Leeds Anne Frank

In December 2019 Anne Frank WIZO held a pre-Chanukah coffee morning with a variety of stalls including delicious goodies made by the committee and also WIZO cards and gift tokens were sold.

## Leeds WIZO Council

held a Chanukah Lunch where acting CEO Maureen Fisher spoke about WIZOUK's visions going forward. WIZOUK's Chairperson Ronit Ribak-Madari also attended, as well as Manchester's new Fundraising Executive and Coordinator, Ria Willocq.

## Leeds Aviv

In January 2020 Leeds Aviv Groups held a joint event. An audience of 120 guests came to enjoy an evening with the well-known and much admired caterer Celia Clyne. Celia was interviewed by Natalie Pearce, and shared the secrets of her success, as well as some stories of the famous people she has met, unusual locations where she has catered and how food styles have changed over the years. Guests were treated to some samples of her delicious canapés and sweet treats, and then watched one of her chefs demonstrate

some tricks of the trade, such as how to make an edible garden and how to cook with banana leaves and black rice. The evening raised, £3,000.

## Leeds Aviva

In January 2020 Leeds Aviva held a lovely afternoon tea which was accompanied by a talk given by Tony Zendle entitled 'Jazz and Jews'. The speaker was great and everybody then enjoyed tea and coffee with sandwiches, scones and cake. Over £2,000 was raised.



Leeds Aviv WIZO evening with Celia Clyne

## Manchester

Ria, WIZOUK's new Fundraising Executive and Coordinator started her role in Manchester in September and has been making waves by supporting and strengthening the existing WIZO groups. She has reached out to contacts to find potential areas of opportunity and learnt how WIZO works, while aiming to build long lasting relationships and encouraging people to see WIZO as a way they can stand with and support Israel.

She arranged three social events in November for Manchester WIZO members to meet her. These informal occasions were attended by over 20 members including group Chairmen. She gave a talk about her journey, current work and her vision for the way forward.

March saw kiddushim in honour of WIZO at four shuls with Rabbis at other shuls also mentioning International Women's Day and WIZO's work.



### Glasgow Strictly

250 guests attended the sell-out Strictly WIZO brunch, 'In Conversation with Nicole Taylor' event on 1 March 2020 at Eastwood Park Theatre and Carmichael Hall. Deirdre Bernard, Chairwoman, opened the presentation by thanking their sponsor Lady Bette Stone for her generosity. She explained that Strictly WIZO had championed International Women's Day for the past few years but that this was their most ambitious celebration. Nicole Taylor, a twice over BAFTA winner, told the audience how she had first managed to break into screen writing after winning a competition, and she paid tribute to another born and bred Glaswegian, Roanna Benn, who had mentored and encouraged her in her early career. The small committee raised £6,000 for WIZO.



*Kim Winston interviews Nicole Taylor*

### Oxford

Oxford WIZO's committee has gone from strength to strength as its new Chairperson Dr Kate Schnelling has encouraged members with a host of activities that cater for a broader audience. This has enabled them to increase membership this year. They have been very lucky to have further increased their finances due to a wonderful legacy from a former WIZO Chairperson - Tamara Hazlewood who remembered WIZO in her will. They are trying to encourage others to also remember WIZO in their wills.

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, they listened to an amazing speaker - Hana Kleiner, who recounted her experiences. The event was extremely well received and Hana and her husband were so impressed by WIZO's work that they made a donation themselves.

One of their longest serving and remarkable members - Lizzie Maisels was awarded a Woman of Worth award at the Annual Rebecca Sieff Day. Attendees were so excited and thrilled on her behalf as Lizzie is a true Woman of Worth and a tremendous ambassador for WIZO<sub>UK</sub>.

On a more personal note Dr Kate Schnelling was thrilled to attend a reception held by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace with two Executive members on behalf of WIZO<sub>UK</sub>. What a wonderful and thrilling experience to represent a charity such as WIZO!

### Kingston

Michael Myers, who helps write the quiz@home for WIZO, was Kingston's quizmaster at a sell-out Quiz Supper at Kingston Synagogue in September. Fortified by a delicious deli meal, contestants racked their brains to work out which 1920s flags belonged to which European countries and to identify childhood photographs of well-known personalities. It was good fun and very well organised and raised over £1,200.



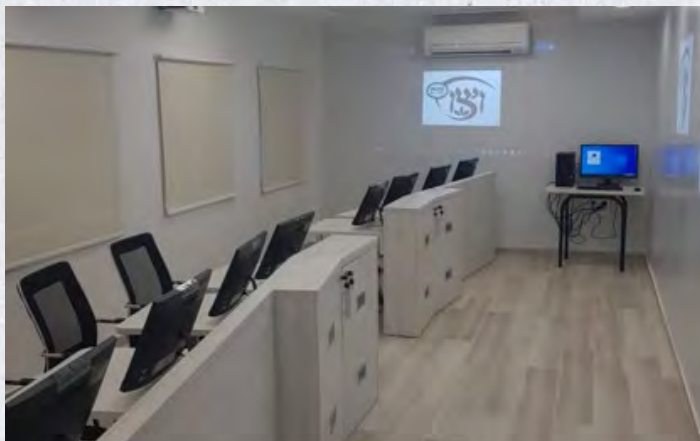
*Kingston Quiz Supper*

**Help make WIZO money! Please send your used stamps to WIZO Head Office: Charles House, 108-110 Finchley Road, London NW3 5JJ where they will be sold and all help make WIZO money!**



# The Rededication of WIZO's Vocational School in Beit Hakerem

After 70 years, WIZO's Beit Hakerem school has been renovated with the inclusion of a professional high school and a preschool, new educational classrooms, a digital library, new workshops and expanded classrooms.



The professional high school features three majors – cooking and confectionery, sound and sound design, and hair styling. There is a special education classroom and communication classroom for the

disabled, and services to prevent and treat high-risk students.

The school's rededication ceremony was held in the presence of Mayor Moshe Leon, World WIZO President Esther Mor, World WIZO outgoing Chairperson Professor Rivka Lazovsky and incoming Chairperson Anita Friedman. WIZOUK presented the Jerusalem Mayor with a painting. Kobi Hillel, CEO of WIZO Beit Hakerem, said: "A few years ago, I dared to dream of a study house that will honour the extraordinary educational activities that take place at our school. I did not believe that only a few years later WIZO would fulfil my dream. I thank WIZOUK for its 100 years of unrestricted friendship and support for Israeli society, and to the children of Israel and Beit Hakerem in particular."



From right to left Esther Mor, Mayor Moshe Leon, artist Beverly Jane Stewart, Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Michele Pollock and Ronit Ribak-Madari.

## Fun times at WIZO's quiz@home

On 1 February 2020, 113 teams took part in WIZO's annual quiz@home. The winner was Sonia Sassoon's team from Phoebe Welcome Leon WIZO and the runner-up was Laura Jackson's team from Shemesh WIZO. A fantastic £30,000 was raised once again.

We are happy to email you the quiz@home questions and answers so you can compete against each other or against other locked down households and have some fun. Previous year's quizzes are also available to those who competed this year. A donation to WIZO would be very welcome to help us continue with our important work.

**Please email [nicky@wizouk.org](mailto:nicky@wizouk.org) to take up this challenge!**



Sonia Sassoon's winning team



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legacy@wizouk.org - 020 7319 9169 - www.wizouk.org





# Mazeltov

**To the following on their special celebrations!**

## **SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS**

Gillian Azulay  
Anne Bechar  
Deirdre Bernard  
Susan Da Costa  
Barbara Elliston  
Leon Fisher  
Alice Fraser  
James Glyn  
Diane Goldman  
Ruth Green  
Mindu Hornick  
Rae Ingleby  
Martin Jacobs  
Joyce King  
Nadia Lantin  
Beattie Levene  
Maureen Lewis  
Marilyn Podro

Anita Royston  
Ella Silverman  
Anne Tanner  
Lilly Waxman  
Elizabeth Wermuth

## **WEDDINGS**

Jade and Stephen Fink

## **BAR MITZVAH**

Jared Field  
Luke Harrison Godfrey  
Joshua Jackson  
Jake Frieze  
Ethan Paul  
Rafi Pearce  
Micah Senior  
Matthew Shaw

## **BAT MITZVAH**

Sidney Beare  
Rina Dee  
Mirabella Kushner  
Abigail Shaw  
Eleanor Shenderey  
Tali Simmons

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Hannah & Gerald Bloom  
Linda & Robert Brody  
Ruth & Leo Cohen  
Moira & Peter Da Costa  
Fay & Stephen Gilbert  
Joyce & Barry King  
Cynthia & David Messias  
Ann & Philip Morris  
Rosalind & Brian Redbart

Thank you all for making WIZO the charity of choice for your celebrations. WIZO cards, certificates and gift tokens are ideal for any occasion and are priced to suit all budgets. Instead of receiving unwanted gifts on a milestone celebration, why not ask for donations to WIZO instead? For further information, call: 0207 319 9169 or order online: [www.wizouk.org/shop](http://www.wizouk.org/shop)

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