
The **WIZO** **Reporter**

FIRST ISSUE



**This issue
showcases
highlights of
our Centenary
year 2018**

WIZO's £1.8m dream

"Follow your dreams" has become one of the most hackneyed phrases of our time. From X Factor to Bake Off, Britain's Got Talent to Love Island, contestants are urged to dreamily wonder where they might end up, if only...



Artist impression of the Library



Artist impression of the Sports Hall



Artist impression of the Classroom

Converting a dream into reality demands vision, tenacity, chutzpah and the ability to energise those around you so that your dream becomes theirs and they are prepared to put all their effort into its realisation.

The WIZO Vocational High School in Jerusalem, dubbed WIZO's 'School of Dreams', is just such a project. This inspiring centre has been the focus of our centenary fundraising efforts - to raise the £1.8m required for its complete renovation and refurbishment.

The school was founded in 1966, originally to help troubled adolescent girls, rejected by the formal education system, to pursue vocational studies that would enable them to work. Today, it has 100 pupils, young people with severe emotional, behavioural and psychiatric problems or special needs

unmet in the formal education system. These young men and women who felt themselves condemned to the scrap heap, without hope for a productive and happy future have been helped by the school to discover talents they never knew they had and put them into energetic action.

Helping youngsters out of the pit of hopelessness into which they've sunk demands intensive work from social workers, psychologists and teachers. Vocational training to a high and employable standard also demands specialised equipment in an efficient environment. WIZO's 'School of Dreams' started out furnished and equipped to the highest standard it could manage. That was over 50 years ago and the school is no longer fit for purpose.

Take the sports hall, for example, vital for youngsters who have

often suffered from poor diets and lack of exercise. Renovation of the room alone will cost £100,000. Add to that the necessary pilates rings, skipping ropes, rubber hockey sets, baseball nets and resistance bands with weights and that's a further £11,000.

While dealing with the body, the 'School of Dreams' must also nourish the mind - no-one can dream on an empty imagination - and for this you need a well-stocked, and enticing library. The 21st Century Library is not what many of us think of when we remember sitting silently in an austere room, frightened in case the whisper of a page turning might call down the wrath of the librarian. Today's library is a comfortable, creative thinking space where, in addition to books and tables for group work, there needs to be a supply of tablet computers for individual study, and a printer

and TV monitor for larger projects. With the cost of the room renovation included, that's a total of £80,000.

Add to this the cost of disabled lifts and washrooms, classrooms and all the other facilities that are required in an up to date fully functioning school and you can begin to appreciate the scale and size of this project. A really ambitious target, we are still looking to make up the £390,000 shortfall of the £1.8m and are inviting donations at all levels. No contribution is too small.

There are several opportunities including commemorative plaques in recognition of donations.

If you would like to find out more about how to donate, please call **Melissa Davis** at **WIZO** on **020 7319 9169** or email **melissa@wizouk.org**

Our visit to the 'School of Dreams'

David and I, together with our daughter and son-in-law Madelaine and Robert Black, were lucky to pay an inspirational visit to the 'School of Dreams'.

We were greeted at the entrance by Kobi Hillel, Director of the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family for the last 11 years, and Annette Crandell from WIZO.

The school is situated in what was the original Jerusalem Baby Home, founded 100 years ago and now caters for 100 boys and girls, in years 9-12. They have all been referred by the Department of Education and Culture with emotional, behavioural or psychological problems. This is their 'last chance saloon' to become full and useful members of Israeli society, equipped with a trade.

The pupils are looked after and taught by a team of 60-70 teachers and counsellors.

Classes began here in 1966 when the building was very much in need of renovation and upgrading, which is still in progress. The section that has been refurbished is very attractive, bright, functional and welcoming.

We saw some of the newly renovated classrooms and counselling rooms, and the large airy staff room. The classrooms have all been

equipped with new desks, chairs, whiteboards, projectors, screens and lockers.

At the Vocational High School in Bet Hakerem pupils are offered the choice of three courses: culinary studies, for which there is a very impressive, well equipped kitchen; hairdressing, with its own salon, which, when we visited, was full of enthusiastic pupils and their teachers; and a fully equipped music and recording studio for students studying the music and sound production programme.

At the end of their three year course the students will be contributing members of society, able to go into the IDF and then looking forward, confidently, to their chosen career.

The school has an impressive track record with 80% of its graduates obtaining employment and 90% accepted by the IDF. This is a remarkable and fantastic way to save young lives and to enable them to realise their dreams and become independent and fulfilled individuals.

It was a pleasure to have had the opportunity to visit such a unique project and as a WIZO member, I am proud and delighted to be involved in such a worthwhile and far-sighted project.

Cynthia Messias



Stephen and I had a fantastic visit to the WIZO Vocational High School this morning. Thank you to Lisa for organising our meeting with the headmistress (now there for 24 years), a social worker and teacher (some have been there for many years). The ratio of 60 staff to 95 pupils who care for them as family and take pride in not letting them down is exceptional.

Hearing directly from four successful pupils from dysfunctional families whose lives have been turned around after being educated there and rescued in their teenage years was very moving and

If you would like to visit one of WIZO's inspiring projects please contact **WIZOuk Head Office** on central@wizouk.org or call **020 7319 9169**.

motivating. One of these pupils had won the national pupil of the year award from the President in Israel's 70th year!

Kobi Hillel, Director of the Rebecca Sieff Centre for the Family and Anita Friedman, Chair of World WIZO Fundraising were terrifically informative guides. It was great to visit the cookery, hairdressing and music recording classes and staff room in the brand new facilities we are supporting.

Laura Zimmerman

Commitment Awards, recognising those making it their business to change lives



At the start of 2018, WIZO launched its third annual Commitment Awards, honouring unsung heroes: individuals and organisations from all faiths and communities who are impacting upon and improving the quality of life of others.

These Awards recognise the vision of those who use their skills and opportunities to make



the world a better place and represent a range of sectors including finance and business, education and the charitable sector.

A number of businesses and philanthropic organisations have supported this initiative, including Dangoor Education,

(in memory of Renée Dangoor and Sir Naim Dangoor), Bank Leumi, El Al, Westminster Young Professionals, The Jewish Chronicle, Jewish Renaissance magazine, The Memorial Scrolls Trust and The Embassy of Israel.

Claude Littner, Business Executive and long-term advisor to Lord Alan Sugar on The Apprentice, hosted the Centenary Commitment Awards and chaired the judging panel. In his welcome he said: "In the real world, there are people who give tirelessly and care for others. They do so without any fanfare, and without seeking recognition". Claude contrasted this "genuine endeavour" to "those who have found fame through reality shows and social media."

He continued: "So it is very special to shine a warm light on some extraordinary people who have made a huge difference to the lives of others. They make the world a better place for us all."

As well as a physical award presented at an inspiring reception, winners in each category are taken on a prize trip to Israel. The schedule not only includes visits to

WIZO projects but also gives opportunities to connect with individuals, businesses, and organisations relevant to the diverse areas of interest and expertise of each Award winner.

To mark our Centenary year in 2018, we extended the number of Award categories reaching out to 15 key areas of society. The winners' trip took place in December and the itinerary included visiting the WIZO Vocational High School (the fundraising focus of WIZOuk's Centenary year), the Bezalel Art Academy (Israel's national school of art, established in 1906 by Jewish painter and sculptor Boris Schatz and Israel's oldest institution of higher education), Beit Ha'Gefen (the Arab-Jewish Cultural Centre, a multi-cultural organisation that aims to bring together Arabs and Jews and promote co-existence and tolerance), Achuzat Yeladim (a WIZO post-hospitalisation and residential treatment facility highly respected for its work with the most at-risk children, who have suffered severe violence, trauma and neglect); and Fab Lab (a community-based digital manufacturing laboratory, the setting for realising dreams in

concrete materials in a variety of implementing methods that connect the virtual and the physical, from CNC manufacturing to 3D-printing and electronics).

Of all the wonderful feedback through the years from participants in this inspiring initiative, perhaps the most poignant comment has come from David Altschuler, a 2017 winner in the 'Entrepreneur' category, "Seeing projects like these underlines how much better we can all do".

As we enter WIZO's next 100 years, we look forward to continuing to impact the future - changing lives, and making dreams of a better world come true.



Centenary Round - Up

Women of the World

In March, WIZOUK held a very special panel discussion evening with women who are currently making an impact. Chaired by journalist and producer, Rosa Doherty, the panel consisted of: Natasha Hausdorff (UK Lawyers for Israel), Einat Shazar (Conservative Friends of Israel), Lyn Julius (Harif, Association of Jews from the Middle East and North Africa) and Rachel Shani (Consul for the Israeli Embassy).



Golf Day

100 golfers braved a cold and wet day in April at Hartsbourne Country Club for WIZO's Centenary Golf Day and raised a staggering £18,000. The winning team members were (below left to right): Jonathan Pinkus, James Thompson, Nick Fox and Sam Berg.



Entebbe

In April, we were lucky to host two talks by distinguished guest speaker Rami Sherman (below), an IDF Commando in Operation Entebbe. One talk was in London and the other later that same week in Leeds. Rami grew up on Kibbutz Lehavot Habashan in the North of Israel and was educated by the kibbutz movement educational system. During his army service, he served in the IDF's Navy Seal unit from which he was honourably discharged with the rank of Major. In 1976, during Operation Entebbe, Rami served as Operations Officer to Yoni Netanyahu, who led the back-up force.



Wellies for WIZO Centenary Walk

Also in April, Leeds WIZO held a very successful 'Wellies for WIZO' five-mile centenary walk around the beautiful Harewood House.



Southgate WIZO Afternoon Tea

Southgate WIZO held an afternoon tea in May with kosher chocolatier Andrew Kennard as guest speaker. Over £1,700 was raised.

Bridge Lunch

Also in May, WIZOUK's Centenary Bridge lunch in memory of Odette Dreyfuss exceeded all expectations, with 116 people attending the event. The £20,000 raised will also enable us to remember Odette, her generosity, and love and support of WIZO in her lifetime, by naming a room at the 'School of Dreams' in her memory. The winners below were Lesley Margolin and her partner Michele Segal.



Newcastle WIZO's Cen(tea)nary Afternoon Tea

Newcastle held a Cen(tea)nary Afternoon Tea in June to honour 3 ladies who were members of Newcastle Sharon Group and who were co-Chair, co-Treasurer and co-Secretary with Rosa Wollstein girls. They are all over a certain age and wanted to retire gracefully! £1,800 was raised.

Westcliff WIZO: Heroes and Villains

Westcliff held a Luncheon in June for 11 guests which raised £3,450 including an excellent brochure. The guest speaker was Steven Burstin, a 'tour guide with a difference'. He gave an enjoyable virtual tour of London's East End with the characters portrayed on the slideshow as Jewish Heroes and Villains.

Mill Hill WIZO's Afternoon Tea

In July, Ronit Ribak-Madari, attended a delicious afternoon tea, together with 26 members of Mill Hill WIZO. It was hosted in the beautiful garden of Ros and Ronnie Preston. The afternoon began

with Ros welcoming everyone to her home and then Marilyn Podro presented Ruth Sotnick with a 'leaf' for WIZO's 'Tree of Life', to mark Ruth and her husband Richard's forthcoming aliyah. Ronit spoke about WIZO's Centenary year and her hopes for the future of the organisation. Andrea Murray of Mill Hill WIZO then spoke about her path to becoming a Blue Badge London tour guide and entertained the group with anecdotes of her almost 45 years of 'guiding'. Music was provided by Paul Young, son of Mill Hill WIZO member, Myrna Young.

Centenary Lunch

Also in July, over 300 guests gathered at St John's Wood Synagogue for WIZOUK's centenary celebratory lunch. Many tributes were paid to WIZOUK for 'moving mountains, cultivating the arts and creating an empire of good' since it was first founded in 1918. WIZO members and supporters from across the country attended the lunch to celebrate the Centenary. The event also marked the official handover from outgoing WIZOUK Chairman/new President, Michèle Pollock, to the new Chairperson, Ronit Ribak-Madari.



Manchester WIZO's Vintage Afternoon Tea

After a whirlwind week of events and Centenary celebrations, new Chairperson, Ronit Ribak-Madari was in Manchester in July to celebrate WIZO's Centenary at their vintage afternoon tea. Over 170 people attended and heard her speak about WIZO's 'School of Dreams' in Jerusalem. She also talked about her visions and plans for the next 100 years of WIZOUK. Lady Beryl Steinberg, Honorary Vice President of WIZOUK, gave a welcome speech and the guest

Centenary Round - Up

speaker was Esther McVey MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, who talked about her journey to Parliament and what her job entails. The event was very generously sponsored by the Simms family and over £20,000 was raised through the brochure!

Embassy Lunch

In July, following the Centenary Lunch, Vered Regev wife of the Israeli Ambassador, hosted a lunch in her home, in honour of Professor Rivka Lazovsky Chair of World WIZO. Pictured (left to right): Rachel Shani (Israeli Embassy Consular), Vered Regev, Professor Rivka Lazovsky, Ronit Ribak-Madari (Chairperson, WIZOUK), Annabel Stelzer (WIZOUK Trustee). Also in attendance were Michele Vogel (WIZOUK Trustee) and Elinor Honigstein (JW3).



Anne Frank Garden Party

Anne Frank's garden party in July was unfortunately cancelled due to bad weather but due to the generosity of group supporters just under £1,000 was raised for this non-event!

Centenary Literary Lunch

In September, WIZOUK held a special Centenary Literary Lunch at St John's Wood synagogue, with author and Royal biographer, Penny Junor (pictured below with Michèle Pollock) as guest speaker. Penny delighted guests with many anecdotes about her time as biographer to the royal family.



Leeds WIZO Gala Dinner

250 people gathered at Etz Chaim Synagogue hall in October to attend Leeds WIZO's Centenary Gala Dinner, at which £30,000 was

raised. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress were in attendance, along with Ronit Ribak-Madari. Sheilagh and Michael Venn opened the evening and Guests of Honour were Debbie and Adam Cutler and Andrea and Daniel Lee. Barrister and television personality (Judge) Robert Rinder was the guest speaker and delighted the audience by informally walking round the tables, meeting and having photos taken with guests.



Oxford WIZO Fashion Show

Oxford WIZO hosted its first annual winter Fashion Show in October at Oxford Synagogue, attended by over 100 people. The event raised nearly £5,500. There were drinks and refreshments, followed by a fashion show, pop-up shop and even a pamper area.



PWL Variety Show

In November, PWL held a very successful variety show showcasing comedian Mark Maier, magician Martin Rees, composer, lyricist and comic songwriter, Alexander S Bermange, Cher tribute act, Joanne Berns and soul jazz singer Shay Levy. Over £9,000 was raised.

Leeds Chanukah Lunch

In mid December, Leeds WIZO held a Chanukah lunch with guest speaker Ruth Sotnick, Honorary President of WIZOUK (below left). Guest of honour was Marlene Shaffner, and the event was also attended by UJIA Community Shaliach, Amir Ben Hur.



Centenary Gala Dinner

This year-long series of events culminated in a glittering Gala Dinner in November attended by over 500 guests, including descendants and family members of WIZO co-founder, Rebecca Sieff, as well as Chief Rabbi Mirvis, Israeli Ambassador Mark Regev, Lord Eric Pickles, Ian Austin MP and author Howard Jacobson. The event took place at the beautiful Guildhall and was hosted by Israeli actress and TV presenter, Eden Harel (left). The guest speaker was Israel's only current British politician, Fleur Hassan Nahoum (Pictured far right).



Jewish pupils across London put pen to paper on how to improve the world with WIZOUK's young writers competition



WIZOUK teamed up with the Jewish News to run a competition on 'How to make the world a better place.' The competition, launched after Rosh Hashanah 2018, was a first for WIZOUK. It is particularly significant in this Centenary year, reflecting the commitment of the organisation to make the world a better place for vulnerable and disadvantaged Israel citizens and looking to the 'next 100 years' as we endeavour to educate new generations here in the UK about the vital work of WIZO.

Both WIZOUK and the Jewish News were delighted with the high standard of entries

from more than 17 primary and secondary schools (including some non-Jewish schools) across London and the Home Counties. Guest judge and bestselling author Santa Montefiore selected the winner and runner-up in both categories, primary and secondary.

Jamie Copeland, 16, from The Cherwell School, Oxford, won first place in the secondary school category for his poignant poem, 'If I Could, I Would!', with Joshua Cohen, 12, from Immanuel College, Bushey, named as runner-up for his short essay on discrimination.

Meanwhile, Abigail Zinkin, 9, from Etz Chaim School, Mill Hill, took first place in the primary school category for her story, 'The Plastic Carpet', described by Santa Montefiore as 'touching and charming.' Dylan Milich, eight, who also attends Etz Chaim Primary School, was named as the runner-up for his poem, 'Make the World a Better Place!'

At a special prize presentation at WIZOUK's head office on 4 December 2018, three of the four finalists (Jamie Copeland was unable to attend) received book vouchers for themselves and their schools, as well as a signed copy of Santa

Montefiore's book, 'The Royal Rabbits of London' and a goodie bag from Hachette Children's publishers.

WIZOUK Honorary President Loraine Warren said: "We are thrilled to see how well the competition has been received by so many schools." Four shortlisted youngsters from each category also received a signed copy of Santa's book.

The Jewish News is so delighted with the response to the competition that it is now considering running this with WIZOUK as an annual event!

Events to look out for 2019/2020



Events are currently being planned details to follow soon

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MazeltoV

To the following on their special celebrations!

Special Birthdays

Sarah Jedwab
Norman Karobik
Miriam Keller
Daphne Morris
Helene Platman
Maurice Podro
Harvey Pollins
Anita Solomon
David Vogel
Myrna Young

Bar Mitzvah

Raphi Brassey
Charlie Cash
David Feldman
Benji Gilbert
Toby Ison
Jessie Menache
Yoav Vardi
Jonathan Wallbank

2nd Bar Mitzvah

Max Edery
Frank Groszmann
Eli Lejeune

Bat Mitzvah

Maya Daniel
Rosie Davis
Maisie Jacobs
Lisa Koopowitz
Abi & Zoe Leigh
Mathilde Nusbacher
Ilana Stone

Anniversaries

Margi & Leo Abeles
Jackie & Michael Jacobs
Judith & Paul Littman
Lesley & Mark Swerling

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

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