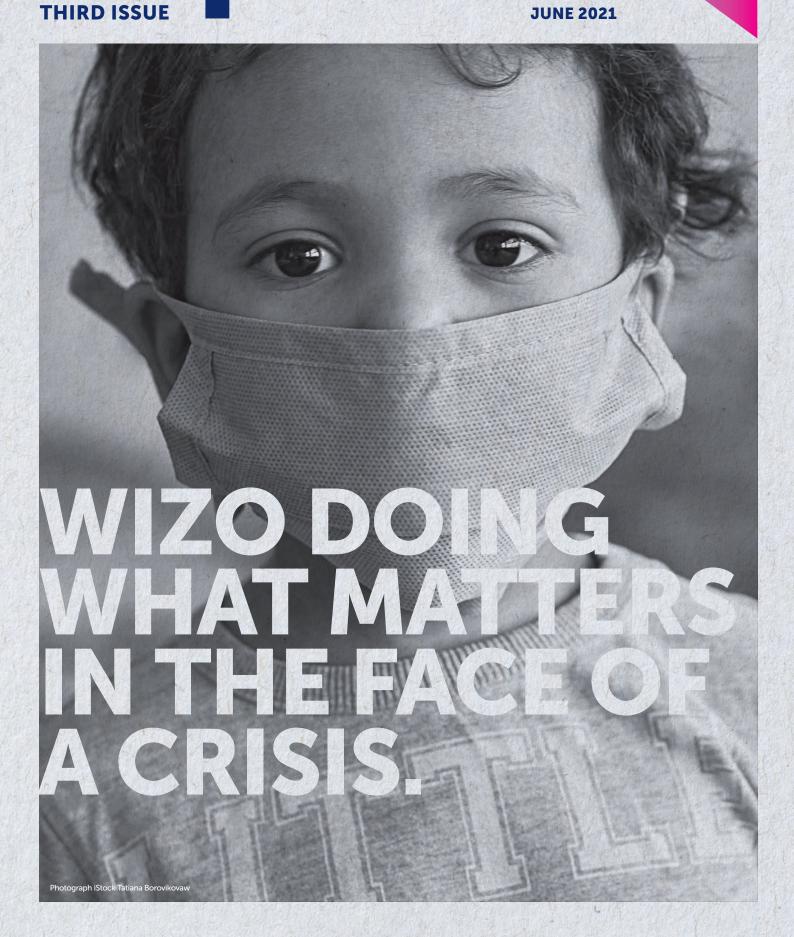
The WIZO REDOTTERS SPRING INTO ACTION SEE P15





Dear Friends

You may remember the last time we were able to spend Rebecca Sieff Day together in person, 3 July 2019, when I shared with you what I had learnt during my first year as Chairperson of WIZOuk.

I think it is fair to say that the last two years have been an even steeper learning curve as we have adapted tried and tested activities of many decades, including popular and well attended social events as well as our Head Office operations, to address the impact of Covid-19. My experience since Rebecca Sieff Day 2019 has, therefore, been a mixture of Contrasts, Pride and Highlights, as we have moved through this process.

Some of the Contrasts

- Whereas in June 2019 I was able to attend Westcliff WIZO's Celebrity Luncheon with guest jewellery expert John Benjamin, in August 2020 I welcomed 'viewers' to a virtual Phoebe Welcome Leon Group event in which Micaela Ziv, Rebecca Sieff's granddaughter chatted about the history of WIZO's Rebecca Sieff Centre in Jerusalem with its director Kobi Hillel and Dr Irit Abramsky.
- In June 2019 I was in Israel participating in the mini-Meeting of Representatives (MOR), with the opportunity of face-to-face conversations and a catch up with our Israeli colleagues. However, in July 2020 and in March this year, the MOR also became an online occasion. A successful meeting but without that 'personal touch'.
- In March 2020 I was invited by Tel-Mond Turkey as a guest speaker to share my journey through the organisation and to inspire their next generation of WIZO supporters. This year they have requested a Zoom conversation to hear how we are handling the impact of Covid-19.
- Our Literary Lunch, with its long history of getting together at St John's Wood Synagogue, last held 'live' in September 2019, transformed to a highly successful online event in December 2020.
- In July 2019 I enjoyed lunch and laughter with valued members at our AGM/Rebecca Sieff Day and in November 2020 we experienced a successful new look Rebecca Sieff Day on Zoom.

Pride

Despite missing the usual opportunities to socialise and hold events, WIZO groups have done their best to participate in the 'new way' of getting together; getting to grips with technology and continuing to support WIZO, against the odds.

I am tremendously proud of the way WIZO in Israel has responded to the emergency needs created by the pandemic. I am also so proud of WIZOuk and the way in which our professionals and volunteers have pulled together to work through exceptionally difficult times, keeping the wheels turning, being creative and continuing to generate much needed income for WIZO's work.

Some of my Highlights

• In July 2019, in Israel, Maureen (our CEO) and I attended the 'Olive Tree Tomorrow' presentations to the award-winning artists. We were also present at the dedication of two playgrounds at the Bar Kochba Day Care Centre in Tel Aviv. All very moving experiences.

- Cardiff welcomed Maureen and myself in October 2019, when we had the opportunity to present our vision for taking the organisation forward and to listen to the views and needs of members. During a visit to the North that December we met members in Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds, heard of their challenges and brainstormed ideas. In November 2020, in this new virtual world, I shared the screen with Dame Margaret Hodge MP at Oxford WIZO's AGM.
- In January 2020, I attended the World WIZO Conference in Israel along with several representatives of WIZOuk, where I was privileged to co-chair the election of the incoming Chairperson and President. A very special visit incorporating the rededication of the WIZO Vocational High School, WIZOuk's Centenary Project.
- In May 2020, I attended a Zoom fundraising brainstorm meeting with World WIZO Presidents hosted by WIZO USA. It was great to share global fundraising challenges.
- A first for the European Council of WIZO Federations (ECWF) as we gathered for our annual conference on Zoom in June 2020. I was delighted to attend this with Hanni Seifert who was involved in the organisation of this successful event.
- In August 2020, World WIZO invited me to become a permanent member of the World Zionist Congress; a privilege which I hope to make work in WIZO's interest.
- As 2020 drew to a close, I attended the European Communities Conference Fundraising session, offering a useful insight into the different approaches to various challenges surrounding fundraising.
- In January this year, I took part in a Jewish Community Centre meeting on Zoom with guest speaker Tzipi. Hotovely, Ambassador of Israel to the United Kingdom, where we also discussed the Covid-19 crisis.
- In March, I attended a Zoom meeting of a new Young WIZO group in Brighton. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and we are excited to work with them going forward!
- As a guest speaker for WIZO Chile in April, I spoke about WIZO's response to Covid-19 and how WIZOuk is engaging the younger generations. I hope to speak with them again soon.
- Finally, how could we forget the incredible 36 hours in April this year, when we again found a new way to raise money at a social distance alongside Jewish Women's Week? Thanks to the wonderful dedication and generosity of you, our supporters, we have raised over £860,000 through this Crowdfunding Campaign. All in all, the last 2 years have been rewarding, encouraging, frightening and challenging!

To return to my opening lines; what more have I learnt as my WIZO education continues? Well, I didn't think I could be any more impressed with the work of WIZO than I always have been. That is until now, having seen the remarkable way in which Israel has responded to the additional needs created by Covid-19. I have learnt that past practices are not the only way of doing things, and every challenge presents an opportunity for progress. People adapt.

I have learnt more about the dedication of our members to keep going, no matter what, and I have learned that in any crisis with determination, teamwork and only a 'little bit' of panic, anything is possible! Thank you for staying connected to WIZO throughout this crisis; congratulations to those who have become 'expert Zoomers', and I very much look forward to what will be the greatest highlight of 2021, that day when we can actually be together!

In the meantime, stay safe and well,

Ronit Ribak-Madari Chairperson WIZOuk

JUNE 2021

Jewish Women's Week Defies the Odds

One Door Closes, Another Door Opens!



presented in 2020, reducing and minimising on WIZO's activities. Jewish Women's Week was year, to help WIZO raise its vital funds. therefore, potentially, a major cause for concern.

However, despite the initial anxiety, our collectors rallied round, encouraged by their captains, dropping letters through letterboxes if they were uncomfortable knocking on doors or knocking keeping to strict social distancing. Doing this during a national lockdown was a big challenge

Online donations increased significantly for JWW 2020 as our collectors did not have the usual contact with people on their collection rounds.

Among the many restrictions that Covid-19 We are hugely thankful to those who gave and to those who increased their donations, mindful that face-to-face contact had an enormous impact they hadn't attended WIZO events earlier in the

Against all the odds, the national total raised for JWW 2020 was in excess of £200,000, including Gift Aid. We were heartened by this incredible result which gave us great hope for JWW 2021. Furthermore, in April 2021 we launched an urgent online fundraising Campaign as part of JWW 2021, called Spring into Action. This was a great and we are enormously grateful for all their efforts. leap into the unknown, but we had a phenomenal response - see page 15 for full report. From virtually knocking on your door in 2020 to virtually receiving your Crowdfunding donations in 2021!



The Show Must Go On

Zooming in on Events

Zooming In On Events

Interesting and entertaining events have always been a major fixture on WIZO calendars across the country. In this new virtual world that we have learnt to adapt to, WIZO has zoomed in to allow everyone to continue to enjoy events and social opportunities in the comfort of their own homes. It has been fantastic to experience how so many people from across the United Kingdom, not to mention across the world have been able to be a part of or interact with our events. Here are some highlights from 2020:



How 2 Look Great After Lockdown. A fashion. hair and beauty event with Harper's Boutique, Sarah-Louise Gardner (voted fastest blow dryer by Voque Magazine), and renowned makeup artist Louise Constad. A great way to start the ease of lockdown whilst benefitting from tips to look good 'on screen'.



Stephen Pollard and John Ware.

In his interview with **Stephen Pollard**, Editor of the Jewish Chronicle, BAFTA nominated broadcaster, writer and investigative journalist, John Ware, spoke about his interest in the Jewish people. John shared some highlights of his career including a time as a hunter of Nazi fugitives in South America and an 'exposé' on antisemitism in the Labour Party. A winner of a WIZO Commitment Award and now a member of WIZO's Board of Trustees, John spoke of his admiration for the work of the organisation which he has witnessed first-hand, having visited WIZO projects across Israel.



Manchester WIZO was delighted to host Functional Medicine Certified Health Coach Suzy Glaskie for an event early on in this new era of Zoom events: Suzy's talk 'Staying Healthy in Lockdown' offered tips and advice on adjusting to this new way of life and how to stay healthy, both physically and mentally. This was a really uplifting session and all of us attending agreed it offered the motivation needed to take steps towards improving our wellbeing.



In Opera & The Silver Screen, Ilan Eshkeri, awardwinning British composer, songwriter and producer and James Clutton, Director of Opera, Opera Holland Park, discussed the way in which opera is used in film to create impact and atmosphere, more often than not without the audience even realising it is opera they are listening to. Singers and musicians from Opera Holland Park performed pieces from some of our favourite films where opera has set

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The WIZO Reporter The WIZO Reporter

Zooming in on Events cont.

the scene. These included; Young Victoria, Pretty Woman, The Shawshank Redemption and Driving Miss Daisy.

Certainly, in these times particularly, we know we do not have many answers. However, those quizzers who still feel they have the knowledge, participated in WIZO's Ultimate Quarantine Quiz in June and in a second virtual guiz, the **Summer Quiz@Home** in July, raising an impressive total of over £2000 with 125 households taking part. A tremendous effort thoroughly enjoyed by all.



If you haven't baked during lockdown, or at least indulged in the delicious results of baking efforts, it is questionable whether you have even been experiencing true lockdown! For those who managed to get hold of what was then scarce, flour, in order to bake-a-long, WIZO hosted a twopart Challah Bake on Zoom with Karen Harris. Karen made baking bread look more glamorous than probably most of us have experienced and showed us how to make the perfect braid - all in time for Shabbat!

Rebecca Sieff Day, 18 November 2020 gained a Zoom advantage by affording us the opportunity to enjoy conversations with guests based in Israel. As the event was just ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, we invited Dr. Keren Gueta, Senior Lecturer at Bar-Ilan University, to share her research and vast knowledge on domestic abuse. The presentation was a fascinating and enlightening revelation reinforcing the importance of WIZO's work supporting victims of abuse.

granddaughters, sisters Sarah Meron and Micaela



Ziv who delighted guests with their exchange of memories and tales of their beloved and formidable 'Granny Becky'.



A fitting introduction to the many Rebecca Sieff Day Awards acknowledging the exceptional contribution of dedicated WIZO members.



Jonathan Freedland and Noreena Hertz.

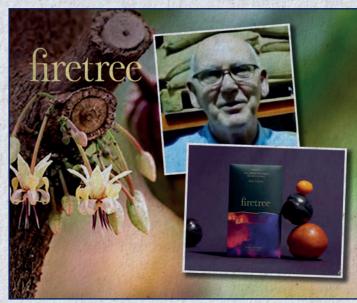
WIZO's annual Literary event featured academic, economistandauthorNoreenaHertzinconversation with award-winning journalist Jonathan Freedland, discussing Noreena's best selling book, 'The Lonely **Century**' and 'how we can come together at a time of unprecedented isolation and disconnection'. This was followed by Rebecca Sieff's A thought provoking event, full of insight and perspective and so pertinent to these times.



On 17 December 2020 WIZOuk was delighted to host a celebration of the life of Leila Wynbourne z"l on what would have been her 100th Birthday. Leila was an outstanding Chairman, President and Ambassador of WIZO, not only an inspiration to the WIZO membership, but to the wider community and all who knew her. Family and friends attending shared special memories of this remarkable lady. In recognition of Leila's passion and commitment to the life changing work of WIZO, funds have been raised in her name and that of her late husband Harry, towards the renovations of the Day Care Centre at the Barzilai Hospital, Ashkelon.

The 2021 WIZO calendar was a delicious new addition to our end of year 2020 merchandise featuring a host of wonderful recipes. We thank all those who so kindly sponsored and supported the calendar in a menu of different ways.





On 4 February 2021 we were treated to a Virtual Chocolate Tasting by Firetree Chocolate. The sold-out audience learnt how to taste the luxury volcanic chocolate as Martin O'Dare explained the chocolate making process and showed us some fabulous photos of the chocolate growing regions. A great lockdown pick-me up!



On 18 March 2021, in **Beyond the Headlines** WIZO trustee Natasha Hausdorff led a fascinating Q&A about the misleading headlines in the press about Israel. Natasha covered a wide range of topics, including UN Resolutions, the territories and the vaccine programme. We hope that Natasha will speak again soon as she didn't have time to answer all of the audience's many questions!

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The WIZO Reporter

WORLD NEWS

Photos from Israel

Women at the emergency shelter enjoying a dance lesson



PM Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara Netanyahu visit families at WIZO's emergency shelter



Keeping Day Care Centres at hospitals open so medical teams can work









Vaccinations at the WIZO Parents' Home



Tu B'Shvat – students planting trees



Youth Villages have provided a home for students — often their only home

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The WIZO Reporter NATIONAL ROUNDUP The WIZO Reporter NATIONAL ROUNDUP

Incredible WIZO groups continue to fundraise throughout lockdown

Despite the circumstances, our groups have adapted to the age of technology and continued to host extremely successful events.



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Tal Avgar is working with WIZO to develop an online shop. With Tal's extensive experience in managing charity shops and her understanding of the online opportunity, WIZO will be able to reap the benefits of selling goods without the physical presence of a shop. We caught up with her to explain more:

Q. What is your background?

A. A dedicated 'charity shop shopper' for many years, I moved on to volunteering in them and then worked my way up to become a manager. I have always been very interested in seeing the way charity shops are set up and what items sell well. Even when walking down a local high street, just as some people cannot walk past a boutique, I cannot walk past a charity shop without going inside and seeing what they have! Over time I have broadened my skills for selling online.

WIZO's online shopping experience

Q. What are your plans with the WIZO shop initially and going forward?

A. My plan for the online WIZO shop is to gradually start collecting donations locally to sell through eBay and alongside this to build up an efficient and appropriate stock of items to sell in pop-up shops.

Q. In your opinion what are the best items that sell? Are there any items that you won't take?

A. I have found that good quality and good condition clothing sells well. There is also a market for bric-a-brac, accessories, jewellery, shoes, vintage items, vases, handbags, sportswear and shoes. Items that we will not be able to take are used bedding, large items of furniture and a large number of books (a small number is fine).

Q. Can people drop items at a specified location? Will you collect them?

A. I will collect donations, please contact me to arrange this.

Q. Can people get in touch with you if they have any questions regarding items they would like to donate?

Yes of course, my phone number is 07989 788179 or my email is: tal.wizouk@gmail.com



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THANKS TO YOU, WIZO'S WORK CONTINUED DESPITE LOCKDOWN IN ISRAEL AND THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WIZO: DOING WHAT MATTERS IN THE FACE OF A CRISIS

OVERVIEW OF 2020 FROM ISRAEL

While almost all educational institutions had to close during lockdown, eight WIZO Day Care Centres at six hospitals across Israel remained open to care for the children of hospital key workers. Here the children receive high level early years education and developmental support in a loving and professional environment that allows them to enjoy their childhood and flourish.

19 WIZO Comprehensive Day Care Centres remained open. The care and attention that at-risk children receive here is essential to their wellbeing and safety. To them, WIZO is more home than home. WIZO gives them all the extra attention and nurturing that they need, and even more so during the tense times of the Covid pandemic.

Life in WIZO Youth Villages continued during lockdown. For many of these young people, moving to a WIZO Youth Village is the first time they experience a safe and loving environment that they can call home.

WIZO Shelters provide refuge for mothers and children escaping violent homes. In the first eight months of WIZO opening Israel's first emergency shelter, 117 mothers and 270 children found a haven in which to quarantine safely. Due to the dramatically increased numbers of women and their families in desperate need of refuge, this third emergency shelter has now become a permanent shelter. After the women leave the shelter the WIZO Safety Net programme provides vital assistance for their new, independent life in which to raise their children and thrive.

All this has been possible thanks to your generous support.

THANK YOU FOR SPRINGING INTO ACTION

We are so grateful!!!!!!

Like every other charity, WIZO has had to adapt to these 'unusual' times. We needed to ensure that the thousands of vulnerable and disadvantaged Israelis in our care continued to receive the vital support which they rely on, whilst we responded to Covid-19 - springing into action with emergency measures to help those suffering the impact of the pandemic.

WIZOux members, groups and supporters have truly stepped up to the plate and, as you would have seen on pages 10 and 11, found innovative ways to fundraise during these very challenging times. Loyalty and commitment to the life-changing work of the organisation was never more evident than during our urgent 36-hour online fundraising Campaign, Spring into Action. WIZO Ambassadors across the country and beyond, reached out to their networks and, at the time of writing, we have raised a phenomenal £1m+ and are still counting!! This Campaign ran as a component of Jewish Women's Week to enhance the reach of our current successful door-to-door collection and to increase giving in areas where we do not have collectors. Later in the year we will be able to update you on the final JWW 2021 total.

A first-time endeavour for us, we were all suffering from more than a little stage fright in the run up to the launch of the online Campaign; many of us venturing into new areas of technology, experimenting with online tools (WhatsApp Broadcast Lists?!).

There was a tremendous sense of community and unity throughout the country as WIZO supporters from Glasgow to Hull, and Southport to Bournemouth reached out to their networks, spreading the good news about WIZO's essential work in Israel, encouraging their contacts to give, whilst all of us were constantly refreshing our phones, iPads and computer screens, to see how many more generous donations had been received and watching the total rise!

It was wonderful to see valued WIZO volunteers and our professionals working together as one WIZO family. Certainly the dynamic Campaign messaging and design, created by our professional team, paved the way for our Ambassadors to reach out so successfully to their networks. Those who saw the press advertising would have noticed in the Jewish Chronicle, on the same page as our advert, reference within a tribute to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh to an address he gave to a Jewish audience when he affectionately referred to WIZO's supporters as "Wizzokids".

Every generation of WIZO supporters experiences different challenges but what has remained the same through the decades, is a strong sense of commitment to strengthening Israeli society. While some are now grandparents, even great-grandparents, everyone is still a 'Wizzokid' at heart, ready to 'Spring into Action' to change lives and build futures for the vulnerable and disadvantaged who depend on WIZO...

and for that, we are so very grateful.

Thank you.



Maureen Fisher CEO, WIZOUK





A tribute to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, he once affectionately referred to WIZO's supporters as "Wizzokids". Jewish Chronicle (16 April 2021, Page 3)

JUNE 2021 JUNE 2021

The WIZO Reporter

Mazel Tov

To the following on their special celebrations!

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Norma Abrahams Cheryl Bradfield Waimann Susan Da Costa **Betty Crystal** Vernon Epstein Diane Goldman Liz Jacoby Jackie Kalms Miranda Kitchener Susan Matlow Norma Pinnick June Rosen **Rosalind Shenderey Beryl Steinberg** Selma Vellins Renée Woolf Anita Woolman

WEDDINGS

Juliet Shenderey & Mike Jackson Cheryl Bradfield & David Waimann

BAR MITZVAH

Miles Benson Lucas Brill Vejarano Jake Donn Jack Kalms Jake Smaje-Frieze

BAT MITZVAH

Allegra Crystal Catie Dressler Maya Pearce

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Sue & Ray Appleson
Louise & Alan Gerschlick
Diane & Ian Goldman
Liz & Bob Jacoby
Ilana & David Metzger
North Cheshire WIZO
(60th Anniversary)
Norma & Leon Pinnick
Sonia & Andrew Tryfon
Zafon WIZO (50th Anniversary)

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Barbara Cline MBE in New Year's Honours list for Services to the Community
Karen Pollock, daughter of
WIZOUK President Michèle
Pollock - CBE in the Queen's
Honours List
Michael Black - being awarded the BEM (Belfast)
Diana Pollins JVN Volunteer Award
Leora Erez JVN Volunteer Award

REBECCA SIEFF DAY AWARDS

Rebecca Sieff Award

Dawn Calmonson of Manchester Darom WIZO Roz Redbart of Mill Hill WIZO

Lily Sieff Award

Angela Landau Joanna Wulwik

Susi Bradfield Aviv Award

Suzanne Anisfeld of Shemesh Aviv WIZO

Women of Worth Awards

Frances Berliner of Gila WIZO
Linda Davidson
of PWL/Glasgow Aviv WIZO
Sylvia Donne
of Edinburgh WIZO
Vivienne Filer of Gan WIZO
Norma Hart of Redbridge WIZO
Jan Saunders of PWL WIZO
Marilyn Scott of PWL WIZO
Leah Shamplin
of The Roding Group
Judy Silver of Oxford WIZO

Professional Team Member Award

Stephanie Franks

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