



Dear Chaverot,

This year, the theme chosen to celebrate our independence was "The Era of Women -- Achievements and Challenges." Each woman has her own story, which brings a lump to our throat, whether a lump of pride, or a lump of sadness.

The torch lighters at the Yom Haatzmaut ceremony this year included education activist, Adina Bar Shalom, who took part in the WIZO project to advance women in public life. Social activist Hindiya Suliman from a village in northern Israel who empowers Israeli Arab women, Tali Peretz-Cohen who heads the Golan and Galilee rape crisis center, Israeli tennis player Shahar Pe'er, currently ranked 11th in the world and handcyclist Pascale Berkowitz, who represented Israel in the Beijing and London Paralympic Games. The words of educator Miriam Peretz, whose two sons Maj. Eliraz Peretz, 32, and Lt. Uriel Peretz, 22, were killed in IDF operations in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, rang loud and clear- 'I choose to live' she announced, underlining the strength of the women and mothers in Israel.

I feel so blessed to be part of the WIZO Jewish sisterhood, a leading women's organization across the world.

With warm regards.

Prof. Rivka Lazovsky

Chairperson, World WIZO Executive



# Breaking News

## THE JERUSALEM POST

March 5, 2014

### **Uploading revealing photos to social media is not just commonplace among celebrities and models.**

Some 72.2 percent of girls said that the practice exists in their schools and among their classmates, according to a report WIZO released on Wednesday.

A third of the youngsters said they had posted photos of themselves on social networks in revealing clothing or in a bathing suit.

Furthermore, 1 out of 7 girls experienced a "hurtful incident" where a photo of her was posted online without her consent.

The study, conducted as part of the **Women's International Zionist Organization's** annual campaign exposing the most sexist advertisements, and released ahead of International Women's Day, aimed to examine the affect of media and digital advertising on teenage girls.

Nearly half of girls viewed models and reality stars as role models, and 92% said the sexual content in commercials, television shows and online influence the dress style and speech of youth today.

Furthermore, nearly 72% of girls said they had been exposed to pornographic content and 83.4% think there is too much sexual content and revealing dress on television and online.

"Today's girls are the mothers and teachers of tomorrow, and understanding the place of women in society is critical to shaping our future society. Some of the survey findings are alarming and prove that there is a lot of work ahead of us in educating the young generation about gender equality and reducing gender disparities in all areas of life,"

The survey was conducted on an online questionnaire between February 23 and March 2, and it included 250 female respondents aged 15 to 18 with a 6.3 percentage point margin of error.



**Since its founding 94 years ago , World WIZO has accumulated rich experience in the field of early childhood education .**

We operate a very competitive environment , and need to permanently have our 'finger on the pulse' in order to distinguish our uniqueness in the field of Early Age Education. We focus upon several main factors, the children, the educational staff and therapy, the family, the Day Care Center and the community.. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a number of programs that operate in our WIZO Day Care Centers:



**Promoting health and safety in early childhood:** Early childhood period is a window of opportunity to create lifelong behavior and habits. We therefore operate programs in four areas: nutrition, movement, dental health and road safety .

**Developmental guidance:** Studies have found that there are proven benefits of early intervention for children at risk of developing developmental disabilities . The first step in early intervention is monitoring and early detection, which enable early intervention and reduction in developmental gaps. WIZO is a natural framework for continuous daily monitoring the development of young children . Professional knowledge helps us to be alert to the difficulties that arise during development and if necessary refer them for evaluation and treatment.

**Early Age Centers:** Most communities in the South including Beersheba are subject to security threats, including occasional rocket attacks . This area has nearly a hundred thousand children aged birth to six . Early Age Centers in Be'er Sheva and Sderot address the needs of families coping with emergency situations and the consequences of trauma in everyday life, as well as negative effects on the development of young children .





**Guidance for economically challenged families:** Young families with young children parents are faced with multiple expenses especially while having to feed families and pay large mortgages. Low wages and high living costs ( especially in food ) cause economic pressure especially amongst families with young children . WIZO gives priority to disadvantaged populations and / or populations at risk by providing a 'Box of Tools' to help cope with economic hardship . The staff are trained to recognize the signs of economic distress among families and use their training to offer coping skills.

**Academization of staff:** In order to help retain staff we provide preparatory studies and studies towards a B.A. in education . Shifts are coordinated so that the participating 'students' can take time from their work for studies. This will upgrade the professional status of Early Age Care and integrate women with the qualities and qualifications for the job.

**Recruiting staff:** Finding, training and placement of demobilized soldiers, from challenging economic circumstances, for immediate work in the DCC's, ensuring them of a career for life.

**On Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, I had the pleasure of participating in a very special ceremony**



**at the Jessie Rubins Day Care Center in Rehovot, hosting Dr. Hava Bugayer, President of WIZO Austria, and representatives from the Vienna Municipality, Dr. Wawra and his wife, Mrs. Sylvia Friedrich-Bankl, the deputy of Dr. Wawra. The Viennese delegates were there in the name of the Vienna Municipality, which generously funded the renovation of the center, under the facilitation of the dedicated chaverot of WIZO Austria, with special thanks to Hava Bugayer and Rita Dauber.**

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The Jessie Rubins Center is located in the disadvantaged neighborhood of Kiryat Moshe; 68% of the center's children are of Ethiopian heritage, and many of their parents are recent immigrants who are struggling to integrate into Israeli society. The center is not just an educational facility, it is a second home for the children and their families, striving to provide them with a sense of belonging in their new homeland.

The unforgettable Mother Theresa once said, "To keep a lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it." It is you, our dear friends in Austria, who are providing the oil, so that the lamp, which is this Day Care Center, can continue to burn and spread its light.

**I was overjoyed to welcome Jana Falic, Co President of WIZO USA, and delegates from WIZO Florida to the Pilavin Gates Day Care Centre in Rishon le Zion on 4<sup>th</sup> May, where we dedicated four new playgrounds generously donated by WIZO Florida.**

This Day Care Center is the largest in Rishon le Zion, with 120 children and 28 staff members.

The group - accompanied by some of their husbands had just come from the March of the Living in Poland, and announced their pleasure at being with the children, who represented the future of the Jewish people.

It was a joy to see the children greet us all with special 'I love WIZO Florida' T-shirts. The entire DCC was 'dressed' in blue and white, at the approach of Independence Day, and in each classroom we joined the children in song and dance - and, best of all - the husbands joined in too!





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**A Judo club has operated at the Rebecca Sieff WIZO Center, sponsored by WIZO uk, for many years.** It is run by a very caring volunteer, and children from challenged economic families join the activities, free of charge. The club has enjoyed a number of successes in its field, and has good reputation and following. **The Deputy Ambassador of Japan in Israel, and the cultural attaché of the Embassy** has visited the Judo club and were given an explanation about the activities at the Rebecca Sieff Center and the work of WIZO in Israel and around the world.



**Bible Week was marked in the WIZO Municipal Technological High School in Rehovot, sponsored by WIZO Brazil and WIZO France** with an exciting evening with parents, teachers and students. They heard a lecture entitled, **'The Expulsion from the Garden of Eden'** in which the Bible was presented from an artistic perspective, a comics perspective and according to the sources. The pupils then took part in a ceramics workshop, in which they modelled scenes from the sources from the book of Genesis. In their yearly outing, the tenth grade took part in an exercise called, 'In the Footsteps of the Bible'. of place in every Jewish library. **The school was awarded first place in a national competition.**



A special workshop was held in the stables of the WIZO Nir Haemek Youth Village, sponsored by WIZO Argentina and WIZO USA. During the workshop the instructors in the riding school were taught the art of riding (horsemanship). The workshop included practical work with the horses, some groundwork and some riding. The guest instructor, Milo, from Holland radiates professionalism and dedication. She runs courses all over the world and the remarkable success

of the workshop led to a number of instructors and students to seriously consider travelling to the Netherlands, to learn the art of horsemanship.

In the presence of Housing Minister MK Uri Ariel, members of the Moskowitz and Falic families, World WIZO Executive members, distinguished guests and residents of Nitzan, the magnificent youth centre donated by the Irving Moskowitz Foundation was dedicated.

Four hundred families, who were evacuated from Gush Katif as part of the Gaza disengagement plan in 2005 were resettled in this kibbutz whose history goes back to 1942. Gradually, new homes are being built, as the community continues to rehabilitate itself. Housing Minister Uri Ariel praised WIZO for its work and dedication and pledged his assistance with as many projects as possible while he is in office.





Sixty youth leaders from the Jerusalem area, and surrounding municipal councils took part in an all night activity which was organized by the WIZO Haberer Community Center, sponsored by WIZO Switzerland. The participants were introduced to astronomy, stars and planets. They learned the rudiments of navigation and how to capture and study birds (and releasing them back to nature). The following morning breakfast was cooked outdoors, with open ovens. It was an amazing bonding exercise, and one that young people 'thirst' for..

The Youth Leadership course in WIZO Haberer, organized a 'Run in Jerusalem'. The day started in Sacher Park with 150 youth leaders taking part. The purpose was to introduce youth leadership from a different perspective. Their 'run' took them to several historical sites such as the Menorah in the Rose Garden of the Knesset, and they learned about Rabbi Kook z.l. and Moshe Montefiore. They sang songs, and were joined by passers by. The students loved, learned and got to know the city from another angle.





The annual WIZO Israel Plenary was held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2014. WIZO Israel branches from around the country were represented at the plenary which took place in Kibbutz Shefayim. Lectures were given on 'Women who are navigating towards a new social order' and 'The rights of women in the work place.' Entertainment was provided by the girl's theatre in Bay Yam. A good time was had by all.



**In addition: Recently, the World WIZO Executive enjoyed a well deserved 'Bonding Day':**

From the minute we boarded the bus, we all felt the warm atmosphere and the special feeling of togetherness. It took place the day before Holocaust Day, and I was filled with an awareness of the great privilege we have as one of the first generations able to be born or choose to live in the State of Israel - a state that is ours! After spending the day in our beautiful Israel, in the company of all our colleagues in WIZO, our love and commitment to the State of Israel, our people in Israel and abroad, became even greater.

**It is this powerful feeling of togetherness in all of our WIZO work that is the secret to our success**



**In Conclusion:**

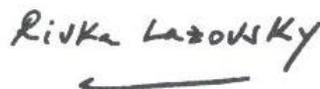


**We are fast approaching the end of the school year.** Time has flown by and it seems like just yesterday, that we began this year, and we are now planning the summer camps for the holidays. Many of our students are feeling the pressure as they cram their last minute studying towards the matriculation examinations.

Those who are about to graduate, are planning their army duty. It is a frightening, yet exciting, prospect for them, and our WIZO schools prepare them for this new stage in their lives, by inviting representatives from the IDF to speak to them, and inviting graduates of the school to tell them about their experiences. I know that you join me in wishing all our graduates a safe army service, and a wonderful future.

**As we draw to the close one school year we are already in the throes of planning the next school year. We will miss the children who are leaving us, and we are already excited to welcome our new children on the first of September.**

**With best regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rivka Lazovsky'.

**Prof. Rivka Lazovsky,  
Chairperson,  
World WIZO Executive**