

Jewish Women's Week 3-10 May 2009

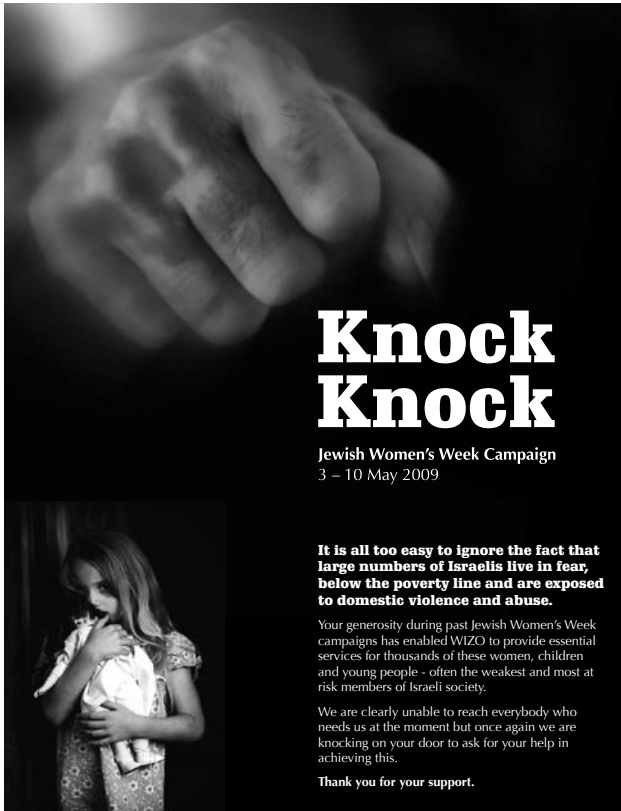
Times are tough for everyone right now but for Israeli families affected by domestic violence and abuse, times are even tougher.

Thousands turn to WIZO because we can offer the essential services and skills needed by these women, children and young people, often the weakest and most at risk members of Israeli society but we need your help to do it.

Our Jewish Women's Week Campaign raises funds for almost 100 projects providing support for a wide range of challenging social problems throughout Israel. This year we are focusing on the need to supply vital services at our shelters for abused women, our centres for the prevention and treatment of domestic violence and our homes for children at high risk.

The economic crisis is having a damaging knock-on effect on our fundraising – please be as generous as you possibly can so that these families do not have to suffer any more knocks in life. Jewish Women's Week is powered by over 1,500 voluntary captains and collectors and is the only Home Office authorised door-to-door collection in the UK Jewish community.

If you wish to donate now, please send your donation by post to JWW Campaign, 107 Gloucester Place, London W1U 6BY or telephone 020 7486 2691. Alternatively you can donate online at www.wizouk.org/jww. Agreeing to sign a Gift Aid declaration will increase every £1 you give by an extra 28p.



Knock Knock

Jewish Women's Week Campaign
3 – 10 May 2009

It is all too easy to ignore the fact that large numbers of Israelis live in fear, below the poverty line and are exposed to domestic violence and abuse.

Your generosity during past Jewish Women's Week campaigns has enabled WIZO to provide essential services for thousands of these women, children and young people - often the weakest and most at risk members of Israeli society.

We are clearly unable to reach everybody who needs us at the moment but once again we are knocking on your door to ask for your help in achieving this.

Thank you for your support.



Photo by Israel Sun

The WIZO.uk-sponsored kindergarten in Ashkelon, attached to the Barzilai Hospital, remained open during the recent Gaza conflict in January 2009 to enable doctors and nurses to carry out their duties, while children were cared for in safety. All other educational facilities in the area were closed.

Children and staff in the kindergarten's shelter were visited by Loraine Warren, chairman of WIZO.uk (right), and Michele Vogel, president (centre), during their solidarity visit as part of the World WIZO AGM being held in Tel Aviv. They are pictured with toys they brought from the UK to the hospital.

Dear Friends

During the recent conflict with Gaza I visited the WIZO.uk Day Care Centre at the Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon. At times of crisis, this Centre remains open 24 hours a day so that the doctors and nurses who are on constant call can immediately come into work knowing that their children will be cared for in secure, familiar surroundings. The kitchens at the Centre prepare three hot nutritious meals daily for dozens of children and adults. Although spotlessly clean, the equipment and the cupboards are very basic, out of date and in desperate need of modernisation.

I reported my findings to our Finance Department who have agreed that our first priority when distributing funds received from the recent Emergency Appeal go towards renovating and updating this kitchen. This is just one example of how your money is being spent.

I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you who has contributed to our Appeal. Please be assured that your money is really making a difference.

Sincerely

Loraine Warren
Chairman WIZO.uk

Using your WIZO funds carefully

2,000 take part in wizouk.quiz@home

Over 2,000 people in the UK and a team in Eilat took part in our January on-line supper quiz. Funds were in excess of £35,000, benefiting 12,000 children at risk in Israel.

167 teams participated across the UK including Scotland Ireland and south-west England. The winning team was hosted by Nicola Garcia, an independent member of the younger AVIV movement. Joint second were teams led by WIZO.uk Life Member Diane Goldman of Leeds Anne Frank and Renee Aronson, Life Member of Oxford.



In Eilat, Brenda Levinson from Newcastle and four generations of her family visiting from the UK and those living in Israel worked on the quiz.

Casino Night raises £80,000

Joyce and Edward Misrahi hosted our Casino Night for the second year running. Claire Zulman and Joyce Misrahi jointly chaired the event at the Bloomsbury Ballroom in central London.



WIZO projects in Israel caring for vulnerable children and families benefitted from the event.

AVIV's 'Who's Got Talent' Grand Final

Our March Grand Final was won by singer Sandra Lee with her rendition of Puccini's 'O Mio Babbino Caro'.

Judges were Jonathan Ansell, formerly of pop opera group G4, TV presenter Debbie King, motivational speaker Andrew Risner, cellist Sagi Hartov and comedians Paul Kaye and Mark Maier, who compered the evening.



AVIV raised more than £27,000 in support of WIZO.uk's ADI project at Beit Sherman Be'er Sheva, which offers vulnerable young Israeli women counselling, training and care.



The part of the map of Israel shaded red represents the area now at risk of long- or short-range missile attacks. Not only are the people of Sderot, Ashdod and Ashkelon now threatened but also Beersheva, where attacks recently penetrated. Yet further widening threats by Hamas bring ever-larger areas of Israel into the danger zone.

Map courtesy of The Jewish Chronicle

Interactive WIZO Close encounters of the virtual kind

Now you can see for yourself how funds raised by WIZO to the lives of disadvantaged families in Israel.

Interactive WIZO provides a 'virtual journey' through WIZO's www.wizouk.org/interactive and click on to blue 'hot spots' pictures and interactive scenes.

Initially, two of our UK-sponsored WIZO projects are showcased at the Centre for the Family in Jerusalem and the Nahalal Youth Village. Executive Director says: "This is an attractive and user-friendly offer to visiting WIZO projects firsthand. It will enable more people to see the work we are raising money for."

Please explore our new site. It will evolve over time, as more projects to discover, each one showing a different aspect

WIZO support for besieged families

WIZO groups in Israel pulled out all the stops to support besieged families, young people and children and the IDF during the recent Gaza conflict.



WIZO Azur members collected toys for children in shelters in southern settlements and travelled to Ashkelon to distribute them, staying with the children.

WIZO Ashkelon: Because their centre has a protected area, WIZO Ashkelon prepared the centre to absorb children, when necessary

WIZO Ashdod Women's Shelter: Women and children under threat from Kassam rockets were sent to the Beyachad Academy hostel in the town of Yerucham which organised outings for them. The shelter's director stayed with the women throughout, accompanied by staff with therapeutic skills.

WIZO Givatayim volunteers baked over 200 cakes for IDF soldiers during a 24-hour period. The cakes were sent via Netiv Haasara to soldiers fighting on the front.



WIZO Haberer Community Centre in Jerusalem hosted matriculation pupils from Netivot, Beersheva, Ashkelon and Ofakim for a three-day respite visit to the Centre's Youth Leadership course. Staff organised meals, housing and leisure activities for them in the evenings and helped them with their studies during the day. Five boys remained in the town and were housed with local families until they felt confident enough to return home.

WIZO Herzliya Pituach members hosted over 100 women from 15 settlements of the Shaar Hanegev Regional Council for breakfast and a talk on coping with fear during a period of crisis.

WIZO Kiryat Haim members made up food parcels for soldiers serving on the Shayetet 3 warship, in a shelter provided for them by the Haifa Municipality

WIZO Nir Haemek hosted 25 pupils from the Neve Galim Boarding School in Ashdod for a tour of the valley in jeeps. The young people at the youth village also organised hundreds of parcels for IDF soldiers in Gaza.

WIZO Nachlat Yehuda in conjunction with the local Municipality organised a respite visit to Rishon Lezion for pupils from Ashdod and Ashkelon, mostly of Ethiopian origin, for three days of musical activities, theatre and tours of the local museum and city gallery.

WIZO Tel Aviv sent a truck filled with quality clothing to settlements under fire around Sderot.

WIZO Tiberias: The army contacted WIZO and within a few hours the branch was turned into a call-up point. Volunteers welcomed enlisted reserve soldiers with refreshments.



uk are making a difference
work in Israel. Simply log onto
' to view videos, information,
sed: our flagship Rebecca Sieff
llage. Alison Rosen, WIZO.uk
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**Young WIZO Shabbaton
15 May 2009**

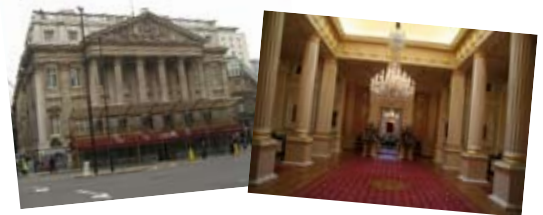
Young WIZO is planning a special Friday Night Dinner on 15 May 2009. This Dinner will be held at a north London synagogue. Our Young WIZO supporters will enjoy an evening in a friendly atmosphere with delicious food.

There will be a surprise guest speaker. This gathering will give Jewish professionals the opportunity to meet like-minded young people from around the world, living in London. Vivi Citronenbaum, Young WIZO coordinator says: "Young WIZO is organising its first Shabbaton and we are all very excited about it. We look forward to having a fun and uplifting evening in the spirit of WIZO."

For further information, contact Vivi on 020 7486 2691 or Email vivian@wizouk.org

Dates for Your Diary

- Manchester Council's Annual Yom Ha'atzmaut Lunch with Entertainment - 29 April*
- Golden Age Club Yom Ha'atzmaut Lunch - 29 April*
- Jewish Women's Week - 3-10 May*
- Young WIZO Shabbaton - 15 May*
- Community Fun Run - 24 May*
- Esther Bye WIZO - Theatre showing of 'Haunted' by Edna O'Brien with Brenda Blethyn at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester - 27 May*
- Sponsor A Child Lunch - 10 June*
- Rebecca Sieff Day - 13 July*
- Opening of the Borchard Gallery - 23 July*
- The Mansion House - 9 September*
- WIZO Day Manchester Annual Coffee Morning - 9 September*
- Literary Lunch - 3 November*



**The Mansion House
9.9.09**

Tea and lecture at the Mansion House including viewing of The Harold Samuel Art Collection, a unique collection of 17th century paintings from Holland's Golden Age.

Suggested minimum voluntary donation £50. For more information please contact Stephanie on 020 7486 2691, email central@wizouk.org

**Rebecca Sieff Day July 13 2009
London Hilton Metropole, Edgware Road**

Join us for the highlight of the WIZO calendar when our guest speaker will be Dr Nicola Brewer, Chief Executive, the Equality and Human Rights Commission. On this special day, the Rebecca Sieff Awards will be presented. Please return the enclosed form to Stephanie Franks at WIZO House.

**Community Fun Run
Sunday 24 May 2009**



Whether you are a serious runner or a casual stroller, the annual Community Fun Run is a great day out for everyone. It gives you the opportunity to have fun with family and friends, meet other members of the community and raise much-needed funds for WIZO. Once again this year's event will take place at The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, Elstree, Herts. The charge to participate is £5 per child and £10 per adult. To find out more or to register online, please visit www.communityfunrun.org

New Business Network

WIZO.uk has partnered with The Jewish Chronicle to launch an exciting new business network. We are currently developing a programme of Business Breakfasts for men and women and networking events specifically for women who work. If you would like to be kept updated please e-mail maureen@wizouk.org

AVIV needs YOU!

Do you want to meet other like-minded young women? Do you want to help underprivileged children in Israel? Do you want to be part of a worldwide organisation? WIZO.uk AVIV is looking to start up a new group in your area. If you are interested, please contact Amanda either on 020 7486 2691 or at amanda@wizouk.org

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