



Women's International
Zionist Organization

WIZO

QUEENSLAND

Doing what matters

Newsletter

August 2025

The Children of Sderot



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Shalom Chaverot

What an exciting couple of months WIZO Queensland has had!

Our functions continue to attract wonderful guest speakers.

Ross McKiver was very informative, discussing his time as a guide and educator on the Kokoda Trail. Ross had his audience engaged in conversation, with a scrumptious afternoon tea served afterwards.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Gold Coast event with author of the *Tattooist of Auschwitz*, Heather Morris. But some of our Executive committee did attend, giving feedback of an excellent event with a turnout of over 90 people. Thanks to all on the Gold Coast committee for organizing the event and the Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation for hosting.

Our let's Dance Again function will be held this Sunday 24th August in Brisbane, at 2:00pm. See our flyer below for booking information.

THIS YEAR WE CELEBRATE 105 YEARS OF WIZO!

WIZO's founding mothers, Rebecca Sieff, Vera Weizmann and Romana Goodman, were wives of prominent Zionist leaders, who, when faced with the ugly reality of the appalling living conditions in pre-1948 Eretz Israel after World War I, quickly mobilized to save the Jewish population, which was ravaged by disease and famine.

In 1920, these founding mothers drew up a constitution for WIZO to address the urgent needs of Israeli society to provide solutions in home economics, legislation, health and social services with emphasis on agriculture, childcare provision, guidance and nutrition. At the very same time, their husbands were working to underpin the foundations of what was to become the State of Israel.

WIZO, a grass roots Jewish organization, has spread to the world, becoming a light to the nations.

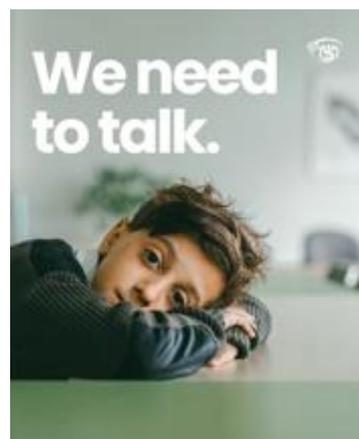
QUEENSLAND'S NEW PROJECT HAS BEGUN

The Children of Sderot

In these critical days for Israel, we are witnessing unprecedented times and unimaginable hardship for countless families, women and children across the country. Lives are being torn apart and the need for immediate support has never been more urgent. WIZO is on the frontlines.

In 2025, we turn our attention to Sderot, one of Israel's most disadvantaged communities, now being the brunt of unimaginable trauma, following the events of October 7, 2023. We cannot underestimate the impact on children as the war continues.

Our Project will work together with Beit Pa'amonim, Israel's sole specialised transition facility that provides life-saving care and a secure environment for dispossessed newborns and toddlers. Beit Pa'amonim offers tailored care plans developed by a multidisciplinary team incorporating therapeutic interventions and life story documentation, to support smooth transitions to adoptive families. The location of the centre, the identity of the infants and other details are kept strictly confidential for the safety and dignity of the mothers and babies.



All donations toward this Project will go directly to Israel. To donate you can do so through this link:

<https://wizo-australia-qld.mygiveeasy.com/sponsor-a-child/donatenow>

Or through online banking:

DONATION TOWARD PROJECTS FORM

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Children of Sderot

Please email treasurer.wizoqld@gmail.com for a tax-deductible receipt.

BANK DETAILS

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LAUGHTER... THE BEST MEDICINE

He who laughs last, didn't get it

Mahmoud Abbas is in his office in Ramallah, alone, when his bodyguards hear a loud explosion from inside the office.

Rushing in, they see Abbas on the floor, face bloodied and they ask, "What happened, Mr. President?"

"A letter bomb!" exclaimed the injured despot.

"But a letter bomb would have wounded your hands, not your mouth," replied one of his men.

"I was sealing it," said Abbas.

A yeshiva decides to start a rowing team. But no matter how much they practice, they lose every single race. Eventually they decide to send one boy down to the nearby prep school as a spy, to watch their winning crew team and find out their secret. After a day of investigation, the boy comes back. "Listen!" he tells his teammates. "I learned how they do it - they have eight guys rowing and only one guy screaming!"

This month in Jewish History

In August 1942, Hungarian Jewish Hollywood actress Hedy Lamarr (Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler), received a patent with composer George Antheil for the 'frequency hopping, spread-spectrum communication system' they invented at the beginning of World War II. The system was designed to make radio-guided torpedoes harder to detect or jam.



'Frequency hopping' has become a foundational technology for spread spectrum communications. Its principles directly influenced the development of secure wireless networking, including Bluetooth and early versions of Wi-Fi, which use variants of spread spectrum to protect data from interception and interference.



Israel ישראל News

Report by Israel PM, Benjamin Netanyahu – 15 August, 2025.

“A week ago, I convened the Cabinet and we established five principles for ending the war with Gaza:

1. Disarm Hamas.
2. Return all the hostages - both the living and the dead. We are not giving up on anyone.
3. Demilitarize the Strip: not only disarm Hamas but also ensuring that no weapons are manufactured in the Strip and no weapons are smuggled into the Strip.
4. Israeli security control in the Gaza Strip. This also includes the security perimeter.
5. Establishing an alternative civilian government that is not Hamas and that is not the Palestinian Authority. That is, people who will not educate their children in terrorism and will not finance terrorism and will not send terrorism.

These five principles will ensure Israel's security. This is what the word "victory" means. This is what we are working on and everyone should internalize this.”

.....

A message from Benjamin Netanyahu, PM of Israel, to the Australian PM, Anthony Albanese. Posted on X (Twitter) 19 August:

“History will remember Albanese for what he is: A weak politician who betrayed Israel and abandoned Australia's Jews.”

TO THE ANTISEMITES OF THE WORLD

Carl Ginsberg

You say we run the banks. You say we control Hollywood. You say we dominate the media. You say we have too much influence, too much power, too much pride. But you never ask how, or why. So, let me tell you.

We were banned from owning land, so we learned to live by our minds. We were blocked from trade guilds and professions, so we became merchants, scholars, doctors, and lawyers.

*We were banned from owning land,
so we learned to live by our minds.
We were blocked from trade guilds
and professions, so we became
merchants, scholars, doctors, and
lawyers.*

Our commitment to education didn't come from privilege — it came from necessity. From exclusion. From survival. When we were barred from universities, we built our own yeshivot. The Torah became our moral anchor; the Talmud, our intellectual training ground. When we were mocked for being 'bookish', we made knowledge our defence. The insult became our armour.

In medieval Europe, Christians were forbidden by the Church to lend money with interest. But kings still needed loans and someone had to do the collecting. So, they turned to the Jews — already despised, already othered. We became moneylenders not by ambition, but by force. Then we were hated for it.

In America, we were shut out of 'respectable' jobs. So, we went west and helped invent Hollywood — not to brainwash, but to dream. To tell stories. To make magic.

When Ivy League schools capped Jewish admissions, we founded Brandeis. When hospitals wouldn't hire Jewish doctors, we built Cedars-Sinai. When law firms closed their doors, we opened Skadden and Wachtell. We weren't trying to dominate — we were just trying to live.

We were expelled from Spain. Massacred in Poland. Hanged in Iran. Lynched in Georgia. Bombed in Germany. And yet, we survived. We learned. We remembered.

In 1948, the world watched as nearly a million Jews were expelled or fled from Arab lands. Their homes, businesses, and synagogues were seized or burned. There were no refugee camps, no UN agencies, no worldwide calls for justice. No 'right of return' for the Jews of Baghdad, Aleppo, or Tripoli. You say we're tribal. But we tried to integrate. We changed our names. Straightened our curls. Abandoned our faith. But every time we tried to disappear, you reminded us of who we were. So, we turned inward.

*What you hate is that the
Jew now has power. A flag.
A standing army. A
government. A home. You
preferred us weak.*

We leaned on each other. We built hospitals when we weren't welcomed in yours. We built advocacy groups to defend ourselves when no one else would. And when no country would have us — we built our own.

Then Came October 7, 2023.

You say you hate Israel because of its policies. Because of land. Because of borders. But on October 7, 2023, Hamas didn't target soldiers. They didn't storm checkpoints or military outposts. They raped women. They beheaded babies. They burned families alive. They slaughtered civilians in their homes, bombed shelters and slaughtered young people at a music festival. It was the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. And as our dead lay unburied, the world didn't mourn with us — it rallied against us.

College students held "Glory to the Martyrs" signs. Protesters waved swastikas in Sydney. "Gas the Jews" was graffitied in Berlin and chanted in Australia. Jewish students were barricaded inside libraries in New York. MIT students were blocked from class. At Harvard, they were told to remove their Stars of David for safety. All while our hostages were still bleeding in tunnels.

*Never is the 18-year-old girl in olive
green standing guard so toddlers in
Sderot can sleep.*

So, no — this isn't about borders. You hated us before 1948. Before the State of Israel existed. Before a single border was drawn.

What you hate is that the Jew now has power. A flag. A standing army. A government. A home. You

preferred us weak. Wandering. Apologizing. Dependent on your pity or permission to live. Israel Is Not a Gift. It Is a Necessity.

We didn't colonize the land — we returned to it. Jews have lived in Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed and Tiberias for over 3,000 years. We prayed toward Zion for centuries. We spoke Hebrew while the world told us to forget.

We made the desert bloom. We drained swamps, planted forests, revived a lost language. We welcomed Holocaust survivors, Russian refuseniks and Ethiopian Jews airlifted from famine.

We built a nation while surrounded by enemies, embargoed by the world and haunted by the ashes of Auschwitz. Israel was not built because of the Holocaust. It was built because of 2,000 years of exile, genocide and betrayal — and it is the only insurance policy against the next one.

Never Again is not a slogan. It's the Iron Dome. It's the F-35. It's the 18-year-old girl in olive green standing guard so toddlers in Sderot can sleep.

LATEST EVENTS

BRISBANE – ON THE KOKODA TRACK

Ross Mcyver was our speaker at our WIZO QLD fund raiser on Sunday 20th July. Ross, is an experienced leader of the Kokoda Trail treks in Papua New Guinea, which he conducts at least twice a year. He shared very informative history of events leading up to and during the Kokoda campaign of WW2. Ross' passion for Australian history proves invaluable to those he leads on the trail, giving them an unforgettable experience.

Thank you to Ron Wrankmore, for inviting Ross to speak to us.

ROSS MCYVER



RON WRANKMORE



SYLVIA LIPSKI AND ROSS MCYVER



GOLD COAST – HEATHER MORRIS

A wonderful afternoon with Heather Morris, author of the Tattooists of Auschwitz.

Thank you to the Gold Coast Hebrew Congregation, the WIZO Gold Coast committee and all our volunteers and sponsors. And thank you to the over 90 people who attended!



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A Message to Christian Zionists

By Benjamin Netanyahu - Sukkot, 1995 (Middle East Intelligence, Nov. 1995, ICEJ)

In 1995, Binyamin Netanyahu addressed 4000 Christian Zionists who gathered in Jerusalem during the Feast of Tabernacles. The following are excerpts from his speech:

“Generations of Jews and non-Jews waited for the day we would all celebrate the triumphant realization of the great prophecies of Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel and others who said that Zion would be rebuilt and the fallen Tabernacle of David would be raised up. This would simply not have happened without the support and unrelenting efforts during the last century - and this century - of Christian Zionists.

Zionism was always in the hearts of the Jewish people, in our prayers, our dreams. But it did not become a real force until late in the 19th century, with the arrival of men like Theodore Hertzl and Max Nordau. And it was 50 years before these great men, that other great of the Christian faith saw the Land of Israel and imagined in their mind's eye the return of the Jewish people who alone, they said, “could bring this barren land back to life.”

And now, after we achieved all our triumphs, established our state against overwhelming odds, rolled back armies a hundred times our size, and after we watered the desert, built up this wasteland, built cities and schools and universities and theatre and industry, and the Hebrew language - after we made this unparalleled revolution in human affairs, guided by faith, there are those now from among us who say: “It’s all a mistake. Zionism is a mistake. Zionism is passe.” Part of the reason this is happening is the absence of faith. But part of the reason is also the absence of knowledge. Our adversaries understood that the way to erode our faith was to erode our knowledge. If you possess the facts, you can defend against lies. But if you have no facts and no truth in your hands, you are completely defenceless against all the distortions that perverse, human ingenuity can create. This perversion of truth is our greatest enemy.

If you have no facts and no truth in your hands, you are completely defenceless against all the distortions that perverse, human ingenuity can create. This perversion of truth is our greatest enemy.

I heard the speech of Yasser Arafat at the UN, when he said that the great Zionist invasion began in 1881. At the time, he said, Palestine was a verdant land teeming with a peaceful people living quietly cultivating their fields. In the 19th century, as in the 18th, 17th and 16th centuries, in a growing flood of hundreds of visitors, including nationals from every civilized country of the time, documented their visits to the holy land. They described, as did the French Poet, La Martin, the 19th century geographer, Arthur Penrun Stanley and the great American writer, Mark Twain, the craven state of the land, the barrenness, the silence of death. This is the truth. This land was barren. It was waiting for the one people who could bring it back to life. We came back

and we brought it back to life. And as we rebuilt the land, there was business and hospitals and jobs and immigration: immigration of Jews and immigration of Arabs.

A war was forced on us when the time came to establish the Jewish state and ingather the remnants of European Jewry. We said to the Arabs, "Be our friends", but they succumbed to the call of the Arab countries around us and sought to extinguish our state. They thought they could overpower us; they did not know the power of our faith. Some of them walked out. Some were driven out in the course of the fighting. But it is not true that Israel created the refugee problem. What Israel's enemies did after the establishment of the State was employ the trick they use again and again: they turned the result of the conflict into its cause. When you asked the Arab world in the 1950's and 1960's, "Why are you fighting Israel?", they said, "Because of the refugees." But there wasn't a single refugee in the Middle East when they chose to attack the infant Jewish State.

They tried another war in 1967. That same faith produced a greater miracle - the redemption of the heart of our homeland, of Judea, of Samaria, of the unity of Jerusalem - all the places that resonate in our history. And for the last quarter of a century, when you ask the Arab world, "Why are you fighting Israel?", they say, "Because of the territories." But there wasn't a single soldier in Judea and Samaria before 1967. Again, they turned the consequence of their aggression into its cause.

The promise God gave to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, this b'rith (covenant), is the most powerful force we have. It has guided us through millennia of struggle and strife and exile and pogrom and degradation and Holocaust. It has brought us back from the ashes of the dead. It has brought this country back to life...

If we were to cede Judea and Samaria to the Arabs, the conflict would go on. And if you were to ask, "Why is it going on?" they would say, "Because of Jerusalem." And if you were to cede half of Jerusalem, they would say, "But we still have here the right of refugees to return to Jaffa and Haifa and Akko and every part of truncated Israel." This process, which is based on falsehood, on a complete reversal of cause and effect, a wiping out of basic historical facts and replacing them with fiction - this is the greatest threat to our common dream.

All these campaigns of slander will not work. We are part of a much, much larger scheme. The return of the Jewish people is not just a passing episode that will be wiped out by the force of ignorance and stupidity. The life-force of the friends of the Jewish people around the world, especially the Christian world, is enormous. And this partnership will safeguard the Jewish land, will safeguard Zion, will safeguard the eternal city.

I have a deep faith and it resonates amongst most of the people of Israel, that the promise God gave to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, this b'rith (covenant), is the most powerful force we have. It has guided us through millennia of struggle and strife and exile and pogrom and degradation and Holocaust. It has brought us back from the ashes of the dead. It has brought this country back to life and I believe that with your help, and with God's help, we will prevail.

BECOME A MEMBER OF WIZO QUEENSLAND

By becoming a member of WIZO, you become part of 250,000 Zionist women worldwide. In Israel, WIZO has the highest rating for accountability among charitable organizations. We support one out of four Israel citizens and are the NUMBER ONE welfare agency, after the Israeli Government.

For a mere \$40.00 per year, you can stay connected with all that is going on in WIZO Queensland. You will also receive our Queensland Newsletter, which you are reading right now, every two months. The Newsletter, as you can see, is filled with upcoming events, articles, photos and everything that goes on in the world of WIZO and current Israel news.

You can become a member through this link: <https://forms.gle/Ap8dRZq6CPpCaBEw7>

Or fill in the form below with bank details for an easy direct deposit. Just put your name and 'Membership' in the details. Take a screenshot of the form with your details and email to:

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