



Women's International  
Zionist Organization

# WIZO

## QUEENSLAND

*Doing what matters*

# Newsletter

March 2026

*Rebuilding their lives*



I am not ok

## MAIN CONTENT

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK – P3

QUEENSLAND'S 2026 PROJECT – P4

WHY I AM A CHRISTIAN ZIONIST – P5

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE – P6

RECENT & COMING EVENTS – P7-8

ISRAEL NEWS – P9

YOM HASHOAH - 11

WIZO QUEENSLAND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL –  
P12

## WIZO QUEENSLAND

PRESIDENT

Sylvia Lipski

 [sylvialipski@gmail.com](mailto:sylvialipski@gmail.com)

 0417 788 449

TREASURER

Susan Segal

 [treasurer.wizoqld@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.wizoqld@gmail.com)

 0421 018 209

VICE PRESIDENT QLD &  
GOLD COAST CONTACT

Luana Goriss

 [Igoriss@bigpond.net.au](mailto:Igoriss@bigpond.net.au)

 0466 548 625

WIZO QLD POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 613 Oxenford Q 4210

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Shalom Chaverot and Chaverim

Since the beginning of ‘Operation Roaring Lion’, WIZO has continued operating as part of Israel’s civilian support system, maintaining essential frameworks that serve children and women, across the country despite widespread closures and ongoing security alerts.

At moments like these, your support enables WIZO to continue standing beside Israeli Society.

Many don’t know that WIZO, which is a non-governmental organization (NGO) has official consultative status at the United Nations. WIZO leverages this status to advocate for women's rights, social welfare and to represent Israel on the international stage. Now more than ever, being a member of WIZO Queensland is so important as we can stand together in greater numbers, allowing us to have a greater voice on the United Nations. WIZO currently has representatives to the UN in Vienna, Geneva and New York. Your continued support as members invites you to be part of a wonderful family. See membership payment options on page 12.

With Pesach approaching, we pray for the safety of all in Israel experiencing daily bombings from the Iranian regime. IDF Spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin followed several indications in recent days that Israel and the U.S. are preparing for another three weeks at least of military conflict with Iran. ‘Operation Roaring Lion’ is currently planned to continue until April 5.

Wishing you all a Chag Pesach sameach!

Sylvia Lipski

President WIZO Queensland

# WIZO QUEENSLAND'S 2026 PROJECT

## *Therapeutic Aid for Women and Children Affected by the War in Israel*



Two years and five months from the fateful October 7 massacre, most in Israel are still rebuilding their lives, materially and psychologically.

We would like to invite you to join us in our new project: *Therapeutic Aid for Women and Children Affected by the War in Israel*. This initiative provides immediate therapeutic assistance to women and children facing acute vulnerability and crisis.

As a result of the ongoing Gaza, PTSD has risen to 30%, depression to 45% and anxiety to 43%. Israel is experiencing collective trauma – men, women and children.

But the wars against Israel continue as we deal with our ancient enemy, Amalek. In 538 B.C.E. Cyrus the Great freed the Jews of Persia. In 2026, on 28<sup>th</sup> February, as Jews read Parasha Zachor in the synagogues: “Remember what the Amalekites did to you...” the Ayatollah Khamenei

was eliminated, and Israel returned the favour to ancient Persia (Iran). This war will take a great toll on Israel and we must be prepared.

The need for civilians to run to shelters, potential damage to infrastructure and economic disruptions are expected to continue throughout the duration of the war. Given that this is a major campaign, there will be a prolonged psychological strain on public morale.

The work of WIZO is not to just deal with the current needs of war-torn Israelis, but to be ready for what is to come. This is the legacy of WIZO - established in Israel in 1920, before the Holocaust and before the rebirth of the Jewish state. The words of the prophets were known - a great return to our land was imminent, as was a great backlash from those who wished to destroy us. WIZO was there in 1948 and we are there now.

We encourage all to stand with us in facilitating our current project and also for what is to come.

You can donate to our Project through the link below, or simply direct transfer to our WIZO QLD bank account (see page 12). Just put ‘Project’ with your name.

Project donate: <https://square.link/u/LjX95gzB?src=sheet>

# Why I am a Christian Zionist

*By Christine Bell*

All of us have different starting points for trusting G-d. It may be something that He's done in your life or the life of others, but for me I knew I could trust Him because I saw the way He dealt with His people, Israel. I am totally convinced that the Jewish people are a living witness that G-d keeps His promises. Therefore, I am a Zionist.

This all began when I was a child, my father read the Bible stories to me until I could read them myself. The stories of course, were set in Israel, so a love for those places that I'd read and heard of became as much a part of my life as the air I breathed. My dad, of blessed memory would say 'You can trust G-d... He keeps His promises; look what He has done, he has brought the Jewish people back to their homeland after 2000 years. He has done what He said He would do and I have seen it with my own eyes. I have seen prophesy fulfilled in my lifetime and if G-d could keep His promise after 2000 yrs, He can certainly be trusted and He is faithful to keep all His promises.

My husband Peter and I are fully committed believers in the G-d of the Bible; we trust what He says and as a result we firmly believe that G-d has chosen the Jewish people as His own and apportioned the land of Israel to be their possession.

We know that Israel continues to be the apple of His eye, just as the scripture says. This solid foundation of our faith affects our daily life as we support Israel and the Jewish community. My husband Peter and I have been to Israel twice and on our first trip in 2012 with our youngest son, we volunteered our time with the IDF to show our support for Israel in a practical way.

Since then, we have hosted more than 200 Israelis in our home through a program called *Chiburim*, where many of our guests who had just finished army service were travelling the world needed a place to stay. We strive to give them a home away from home and provide them a place of safety and love. Sometimes, this may just be an overnight stay while they're on route, but often they stay three nights, which gives us a great opportunity to get to know them better. The plus side is we now have many sons, daughters and friends in Israel and beyond, who know that they are loved and supported by Christian friends.

I heard about WIZO many years ago, but I wasn't quite sure what it was all about or how to connect, but through a friend I was invited to attend a fundraising event for Israel, a brunch and I have been a member ever since. I am committed to WIZO and to it's wonderful work, it's mission to help all who need it in Israel, particularly women and children and I am honoured to be part of the Executive Committee here in Queensland.

Am Israel Chai.

Christine (Chris) Bell

## LAUGHTER... THE BEST MEDICINE



THE main course at the big civic dinner was baked ham with glazed sweet potatoes. Rabbi Cohen shook his head when the platter was passed to him. "When," scolded Father Kelly playfully, "are you going to forget that silly rule of yours and eat ham like the rest of us?"

Without skipping a beat, Rabbi Cohen replied "At your wedding reception, Father Kelly."

THE captain of an Iranian airliner announces, "This is Iranian Airliner 174 announcing we have lost an engine and want to land at any airport in the middle east OTHER than Israel."

No answer.

A short while later he announces, "This is Iranian Airliner 174 again. We have lost TWO engines and ask permission to land at any airport in the mid-East OTHER than Israel."

No answer from anyone.

A while later the pilot announces, "This is Iranian Airliner 174. We are in need of help. We have lost three engines and need permission to land at any airport in the mid-East OTHER than Israel."

Still no answer from anyone.

Finally, the Captain calls, "Help! This is Iranian Airliner 174, we have only one engine left and it is rapidly failing. Unless we can land, we are going to crash. We need permission to land at ANY airport in the mid-East, INCLUDING Israel. Shortly thereafter, a voice is heard in the Iranian airplane cockpit:

"This is Ben Gurion Tel Aviv airport calling Iranian Airliner 174. We would like to help."

"God bless you," said the Iranian pilot, "what should we do?"

Ben Gurion Air Traffic control: "Repeat after me: Yitgadal, v'yitkadash..."

---

# Recent Event

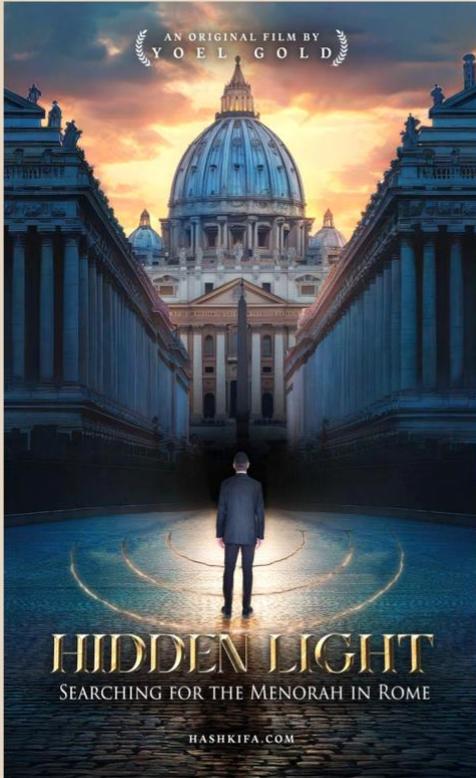
## WIZO Gold Coast - January 25

Such a great turnout of almost 70 people! Thanks to all who made the fantastic food and all who came!



# Next Event in Brisbane (Rochedale)

Thursday evening, 23 April 7:00pm



AN ORIGINAL FILM BY  
YOEL GOLD

## "HIDDEN LIGHT"

is a gripping documentary that unravels  
a 2,000-year-old mystery:

What happened to the Keilim - the holy vessels of  
the Beit HaMikdash - Holy Temple?

From ancient ruins to Vatican archives, filmmaker Rabbi  
Yoel Gold follows a trail of forgotten clues and silenced  
voices – uncovering the untold story of the Menorah and  
the enduring light of Am Yisrael (The People of Israel).

New Heart Baptist Church Rochedale  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April @ 7pm

Single Entry \$20      Couple Entry \$35



## DONATE YOUR REFUND!



Every container makes a difference! Drop off your empty containers, including wine bottles and donate your refund to WIZO.

[CLICK ON HERE TO JOIN OUR GROUP.](#) [CLICK ON HERE TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN DROP OFF YOUR CONTAINERS.](#)

# Israel ישראל News



Operation Roaring Lion: Persians freed the Jews, now the Jews are freeing Persia.

Those in the region who mock Israel's rhetoric of liberation either do not know or choose to ignore: Persians are not Arabs.

The relationship between Jews and Persians is not a geopolitical convenience manufactured in 2026. It is one of the oldest, deepest and most consequential alliances in the recorded history of civilization and what Israel did on Saturday, 28 February, was not colonial arrogance but the repayment of a debt that is 25 centuries old.

*The relationship between Jews and Persians is one of the oldest, deepest and most consequential alliances in the recorded history of civilization.*

In 586 BCE, the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar II destroyed Solomon's Temple, razed Jerusalem and marched the Jewish people into exile – the Babylonian Captivity, one of the defining catastrophes of Jewish history. For seventy years, the Jewish nation existed in bondage, its holiest site in ruins, its people scattered across a foreign empire with no army, no sovereignty and no realistic hope of return.

*The Edict of Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem, rebuild the Temple and reconstitute their national life in the land from which they had been torn.*

And then, in 539 BCE, Cyrus the Great – a Persian, not a Jew – conquered Babylon and issued the decree that altered the trajectory of Jewish civilization permanently. The Edict of Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem, rebuild the Temple and reconstitute their national life in the land from which they had been torn. He did not merely allow the return; he financed the sending back the sacred vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had plundered and providing resources for reconstruction.

The Hebrew scriptures record the decree in terms so exalted that Cyrus remains, to this day, the only non-Jew ever referred to in Jewish scripture as a *mashiach* – God's anointed. The Book of Isaiah, written before Cyrus was born, calls him by name and declares him chosen by God to liberate His people. No other gentile figure in three thousand years of Jewish literature occupies this position.

Darius I, continued Cyrus's policies and contributed to the completion of the Second Temple in 515 BCE. The Book of Esther – read aloud in every synagogue on Purim – records how Esther and Mordechai, operating within the Persian court of King Ahasuerus, foiled Haman's plot to exterminate every Jew in the empire.

*The festival of Purim is, at its core, a celebration of Persian-Jewish solidarity.*

The festival of Purim is, at its core, a celebration of Persian-Jewish solidarity: a Jewish queen trusted by a Persian king, intervening within the structures of Persian power to save her people from annihilation. That this strike fell on Purim – the very day Jews read the Megillah recounting how the last man who plotted Jewish destruction from Persian soil was himself destroyed – carried a symmetry so precise that for many in the Jewish world, it felt less like coincidence and more like the closing of a circle that history itself had drawn.

The Persian relationship with the Jewish people has never been defined by the eliminationist hostility that characterizes much of the Arab world's posture toward Jewish sovereignty. Iranians did not invade Israel in 1948. Iranians did not blockade the Straits of Tiran. Iranians did not chant for the destruction of the Jewish state in 1967.

When Netanyahu declared that the operation would “create the conditions for the brave Iranian people to take their destiny into their own hands,” he was not speaking the language of colonial imposition. He was speaking the language of a debt – a debt that stretches back to a clay cylinder in the British Museum inscribed with the words of a Persian king who, 25 centuries ago, looked at a captive Jewish nation and said: go home, rebuild, live.

The Jews remember. And on Saturday, February 28, in the skies over Tehran, the Jews began to repay.

Printed in *Times of Israel*

---

# YOM HASHOAH - APRIL 14

During WW2, Hitler implemented his 'Final Solution' to his 'Jewish problem.' Jews were systematically rounded up from all over Europe and taken to camps. Six million were murdered in what we call THE SHOAH.

## ESTIMATED JEWISH DEATHS AND POPULATION CHANGES BY COUNTRY (HOLOCAUST ENCYCLOPEDIA)

<b>POLAND</b>	<b>GERMANY (1933)</b>	<b>LITHUANIA (1937)</b>
PRE-WAR: 3,350,000	PRE-WAR: 500,000–566,000	PRE-WAR: 153,000–168,000
MURDERED: 2,770,000–3,000,000	MURDERED: 134,500–165,000	MURDERED: 130,000–143,000 (OVER 90%).
POST-WAR: 300,000	POST-WAR: VERY SMALL REMNANT POPULATION.	<b>NETHERLANDS (1940)</b>
<b>SOVIET UNION (1939)</b>	<b>CZECHOSLOVAKIA (1930/1939 BORDERS)</b>	PRE-WAR: 140,000–156,000
PRE-WAR: 3,028,538	PRE-WAR: 357,000	MURDERED: 102,000
MURDERED: 1,340,000	MURDERED: 260,000	<b>GREECE (1940)</b>
POST-WAR: LARGEST REMAINING COMMUNITY.	POST-WAR: 97,000	PRE-WAR: 71,600–77,380
<b>HUNGARY (1941)</b>	<b>FRANCE (1940)</b>	MURDERED: 58,800–67,000
PRE-WAR: 825,000	PRE-WAR: 300,000–350,000	<b>BELGIUM (1940)</b>
MURDERED: 564,507	MURDERED: 72,900–77,320	PRE-WAR: 60,000–90,000
POST-WAR: 260,000	POST-WAR: MAJORITY SURVIVED	MURDERED: 24,387–28,900
<b>ROMANIA (1930)</b>	<b>AUSTRIA (1938)</b>	<b>YUGOSLAVIA (1941)</b>
PRE-WAR: 756,930	PRE-WAR: 185,000–206,000	PRE-WAR: 82,242
MURDERED: 211,214–260,000	MURDERED: 50,000–65,000	MURDERED: 56,200–67,228
POST-WAR: 300,000-400,000		<b>LATVIA (1939)</b>
		PRE-WAR: 91,500–93,479
		MURDERED: 70,000–71,500
		<b>ITALY (1938)</b>
		PRE-WAR: 44,500–58,412
		MURDERED: 7,680–7,858

# REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR WIZO QUEENSLAND MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026!

**THERE IS NO NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IF IT WAS PAID FROM SEPTEMBER 2025**

By becoming a member of WIZO QLD, 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 either of these links:**

<https://square.link/u/80Ai7eHo?src=sheet>

<https://form.jotform.com/253157656327867>

**Or direct transfer:**

**WIZO Queensland Account**

**BSB: 484799**

**ACC: 000152145**

## LEAVING A LEGACY THROUGH WIZO

### HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOUR LEGACY WILL BE?

It goes without saying that family comes first, but imagine being able to help future generations in Israel with a bequest to WIZO.

For over 90 years WIZO has been blessed with the philanthropic gestures of supporters from all over the world. This has enabled us to invest in projects that truly support the people of Israel who need our help.

### HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU GIVE?

No matter how big or small, any bequest to WIZO is vital and greatly appreciated. There are a few ways in which you can approach your personal bequest and these include:

-  Leaving a **lump sum** of your choice to WIZO.
-  Choosing to leave a **percentage** bequest.
-  Giving a percentage of your **estate**.
-  Donating cash, bonds, stocks, real estate and tangible personal property such as art or antiques.
-  Assigning **life insurance** designating WIZO as one of your beneficiaries.



### HOW DO YOU LEAVE A LEGACY?

Including WIZO as a beneficiary in your will is surprisingly simple. Ask your lawyer to ensure that your will or trust directs a bequest to WIZO for the purpose you specify.

Contact Sylvia Lispski for a Bequest Form  
[sylvialispski@gmail.com](mailto:sylvialispski@gmail.com) 0417 788 449

### HOW WILL YOUR LEGACY BE USED?

You can either specify a Project to which you would like to direct your bequest or direct WIZO to apply its discretion, ensuring that your funds are used to support the most urgent needs as they arise.

