



Women's International
Zionist Organization
Queensland

WIZO

QUEENSLAND

Doing what matters

Newsletter

July 2026

Rebuilding Their Lives



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Shalom Chaverot and Chaverim

WIZO Queensland is proud to have worked diligently for 67 years, to raise funds for the benefit of the people of Israel. According to the last census, only a tad over five and a half thousand people identify as Jewish in the entire state of Queensland. Despite this small and scattered population, so far this year, WIZO Queensland and Gold Coast have already managed to raise and transferred to WIZO Australia over \$44,000.

Through our various social and educational functions and personal engagement with people, we continue to increase our membership. To date, WIZO Queensland has 167 financial members, with more renewals still coming in.

We continue to work tirelessly to promote our Israel Project, *Therapeutic Care for Women and Children*. We have brought a greater awareness of WIZO's work through events, online discussions, printed media articles, small group seminars and our bi-monthly newsletter published by our Vice President, Luana Goriss.

We give thanks to Luana Goriss and Susan Segal, who created and published the WIZO Queensland Website this year. You can find our website at wizoqueensland.org

On June 28, the WIZO Plenary was held at Broadbeach, Gold Coast. WIZO Queensland was represented by our Treasurer, Susan Segal and Past President, Evelyn Charles. The Plenary included a panel from 'Cohesion in Action: Strength and Friendship Between Jewish, Druze and Torres Straight Islander Australians'. The panel was facilitated by Roz Mendelle and consisted of members from these three communities. Rolene Marks also addressed the Plenary via Zoom, speaking of her love for Australia and our WIZO Projects.

Michelle Falk spoke about a WIZO NSW initiative – Lev Echad (One Heart) - for women aged 35-55 years old. Lev Echad was formed after nine women travelled on a mission to Israel to see the important work of WIZO, especially following the events on October 7th.



We plan to continue our good work for the remainder of this year and well into the future.

Sylvia Lipski

President WIZO Queensland

WIZO QUEENSLAND'S 2026 PROJECT

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



It's almost two years since Gaza attacked Israel. Since then, Israel has been fighting on seven fronts: Iran, Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen and terrorist groups in Syria, Iraq and Judea/Samaria.

The prolonged reality of war has deeply affected daily life on the home front. For many women, particularly in families

Millions of Israelis run to bomb shelters almost daily, sometimes several times a day, leaving the most vulnerable — including children, seniors, and Israelis with disabilities — traumatized and terrified.

of reservists, the burden has been significant and ongoing. Mothers of young children have carried the full responsibility of caregiving, household management, and emotional stability, while coping with continued concern for partners serving in reserve duty. Over time, this has led to cumulative exhaustion, heightened stress, and emotional overload.

Millions of Israelis run to bomb shelters almost daily, sometimes several times a day, dodging missile, rocket, and drone attacks and confined to crowded underground spaces for hours on end, leaving the most vulnerable — including children, seniors, and Israelis with disabilities — traumatized and terrified. This is the reason many Israelis have been walking around in a fog in recent weeks. Some people are experiencing a lack of motivation and inability to concentrate, and as a result, have withdrawn from regular routines and social life. Many complain of sleep disturbances, nightmares, or hypersensitivity to specific sounds. Others are anxious, angry, or can't stop crying.

Our current Queensland project provides immediate therapeutic assistance to women and children facing acute vulnerability and crisis.

Supporting WIZO is supporting Israel.

You can donate to our Project through the link below, or simply direct transfer to our WIZO QLD bank account. Just put 'Project' with your name.

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

DIRECT TRANSFER
WIZO QUEENSLAND
ACCOUNT: 000152145
BSB: 484799

LAUGHTER... THE BEST MEDICINE



A YESHIVA decides to start a crew 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 what their secret is. After a day of reconnaissance, 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!"

IT'S LUNCHTIME and 80-year-old Moshe walks into Minky's Diner for his daily bowl of matzo ball soup. Moshe always goes to Minky's for his soup. He is also always punctual - so much so that the waiters always know he is coming in and always have his table and his soup ready for him.

As usual, Moshe sits down at his table and smiles at Sheldon, his regular waiter. Almost immediately, a bowl of soup is placed in front of Moshe. But this time, as Sheldon is walking away, Moshe quickly calls him back to his table.

"Please taste this soup." Moshe says to Sheldon.

"Why?" asks Sheldon. "What's the matter with the soup? It's the same soup as you always have."

"Please taste the soup," Moshe says again to Sheldon.

"But there's nothing wrong with your soup. It's been made the same way we always make it," says Sheldon.

"For the third time, Sheldon, I ask you to please taste the soup," says Moshe.

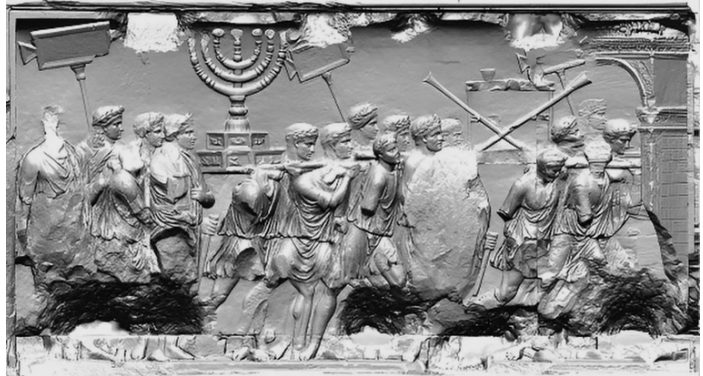
"Alright then... if you insist," says Sheldon, looking around the table. "But where's the spoon?"

"Ah hah!" shouts Moshe.

Tisha B'Av - The 9th of Av

This year, on the 22nd of July, we remember Tisha B'Av – the 9th day of the month of Av. On this date, most Jews will fast in remembrance of the tragedies that fell upon us throughout history:

- The First Temple (Solomon's Temple) was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BCE, under the rulership of Nebuchadnezzar. Most Jews in Judea were taken captive to Babylon.
- The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE under the leadership of Titus, General of the Roman forces.
- In 135 CE, the final destruction of Bar Kochba's army after his last fortress, Betar, fell. Jerusalem was ploughed by the Roman Emperor Hadrian and became a Roman occupied city.
- In 1290 CE (5050), King Edward 1st of England signed an edict expelling all Jews from England.
- On Tisha B'Av, in 1492 CE, the Jews were expelled from Spain.
- In 1914, World War 1 began on Tisha B'Av.
- Himler presented his plan to the Nazi Party on the 'Final Solution' to the Jewish problem, July 31, 1940 CE. One year later to the day, Himler's Plan was formerly implemented.
- On Tisha B'Av, 1942 CE, came the beginning of Nazi deportations of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto.



The 11th century commentator, Rashi, wrote concerning the 9th of Av:

The fast of the 5th month will become joy and rejoicing in Israel's future. Our mourning will turn to celebration.

WIZO Queensland is currently screening HIDDEN LIGHT – a recent documentary by film maker Rabbi Yoel Gold. For nearly 2,000 years, one haunting question has remained unanswered: Where is the Temple Menorah and treasures taken by the Romans in 70 CE? HIDDEN LIGHT investigates this mystery, allegedly kept in the Vatican vaults.

If you would like to book a group screening, contact Luana Goriss (Gold Coast): 0466 548 625; Christine Bell (Brisbane): 0432 518 153. Cost: \$20.00 pp. All funds will go to our Israel Project.

Coming Events

Brisbane

Book now!

WIZO QUEENSLAND PRESENTS
VIDEO DOCUMENTARY
PRESENTED BY DENIS WEYPER

EXPLORING THE LIFE
**GENERAL SIR
JOHN MONASH**

Australia's greatest military commander and our greatest statesman

WIZO Queensland
484-799
000152145

Evelyn Charles 0402810191
Chris Bell 0432518153

30 August @ 3pm - Burbank
\$20 single \$35 couple



Gold Coast

WIZO QLD - GOLD COAST
INVITES YOU TO...
**END OF WINTER
PARTY TIME!**



 **Date:** Saturday 5 September
from 6:30pm.

 **Venue:** Upon booking.

 **Cost:** \$20.00pp.

 **Food & soft
drinks provided.**

 **Contact Luana:
0466 548 625**



MEETING ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA

A wonderful and very inspiring evening held on the Gold Coast this week with Israel's Ambassador to Australia, Hillel Newman PhD.



WE VERY SADLY INFORM YOU of the passing of Nilly Berger, the beloved President of WIZO NSW.

Nilly was a much loved WIZO member and close friend to many. She will be greatly missed by all in WIZO Australia.



I will Beckon to the Gentiles...

“Behold, I will lift up my hand to the nations and raise my signal to the peoples; and they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.”

—Isaiah 49:22

The prophet Isaiah spoke these words 2700 years ago, so it should be no surprise that they are coming to pass.

To the non-Jew who stands with us — we see you. We grew up expecting silence from the world.

But you break that silence — even when it costs you.

You weren't raised with our holidays or our history. You're not targeted like we are. But you still choose to stand beside us.

They mock you and call you a 'Zionist shill', but we know it's just your heart — your sense of justice.

That kind of courage doesn't go unnoticed.

You're in our story now.

You are family.

Israel ישראל News

For the first time in 2,000 years, Jewish authorities are conducting conservation work at the Tomb of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs in Hebron, where Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and Jacob and Leah are buried. The government is showing that Jewish heritage will not be allowed to fall into the hands of people who want to erase Jewish history and identity.

‘Palestinian Authority’ officials have publicly called for the removal of all Jewish residents from Hebron and for barring Jewish visitors from the holy place. So, the best way to protect such sites, is for Israel to invest in them, assert sovereignty over them, preserve and beautify them and develop them into major tourist attractions.



On a simple level, Israel is fulfilling the fifth commandment - *Honor your father and your mother* - by making their place beautiful.

Israel's Next Election

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition has set the date of the elections for October 27th.

The current government, Israel's 37th, was sworn in on Dec. 29, 2022. Netanyahu's government will be the first to finish its entire term in 50 years.

BECOME A MEMBER OF WIZO QUEENSLAND!

Invite your friends and family members, women and men, to become part of over 250,000 Zionists 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

Checkout the WIZO Queensland Website!

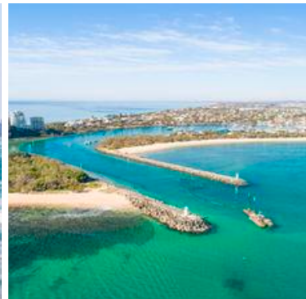
Click here: <https://www.wizoqueensland.org>



Brisbane



Gold Coast



Sunshine Coast



Far North Queensland