

**Impressions of the WIZO Aviv Seminar**  
**19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2006**  
**By Natalie-Tali Rosenfeld**

After one week back to real life with work, child, household, husband and preparation for Chanukah I look back to the last week I spent in Israel with a great feeling of commitment to WIZO and a feeling of proudness being part of this organisation who really affords to MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE.

I can not remember any time in my life where I felt as free as a Jewish woman. Free, because I learned that no matter where we live, in which kind of culture we raise our children our values and education we share and which we give forward to our children are the same. I did not had to explain why I do the things I do in a specific manner without being called a hysterical mother, which I have to do rather often living in the Diaspora. I was just being called normal such as every "yiddishe mamme". And this kind of normality makes me feel free.

Moreover I learned that everything we do in our WIZO work is not only for the benefit of the Israeli society. It is much more. It is for the benefit of the whole Jewish community worldwide because we are all Israel.

With forwarding Jewish values, identity and traditions to our children and with our work as WIZO women we ensure that children who have not so much luck in their young lives like our children will get a proper education and will learn to have the same values.

This I deeply believe will let our nation also in the next generations say and feel that we are "AM ECHAD".

For the first time I saw the results of my WIZO work and I have to admit that I am proud. Proud of what my small efforts can afford. They can even afford to improve the society of a whole nation.

We had a quiet hard program during these seminar days, sometimes without having any time just to handle the just seen or heard. So I find myself the last week thinking very often about everything what we passed together.

We planted trees like the Chaluzim only few years ago. By this we gave life. We call our Torah "Ez chajim" the Tree of life. Jews around the world plant seeds every Tu biSchwat. A tree is always a symbol for future and a sign for hope. If we take enough care of the seeds we plant they will once start to grow and be big and strong trees. Same with our WIZO work. What 85 Years ago started with a small group of Jewish women in Great Britain is today the probably biggest women organisation worldwide.

When I have to summarize the 5 days of Seminar I would say it was a kind of journey through the history and socialisation of our Jewish nation.

We started the first day by visiting the Independence Hall Museum, were we learned under which terrific circumstances the new born state was declared.

The second day we prayed the "Sheheheyanu" at Mount Scopus and thanked for our Life and the time we arrived at.

On the third day we evaluated our Jewish values, identity and tradition and learned the importance of heritage of these values.

We planted a seed on the fourth day and ensured symbolically by this the heritage of our values, identity and tradition which we just compiled the day before.

And on the last day we learned about the incredible inventions made in Israel, about the unbelievable help Israeli medicines offer even to Palestinians, always from the press worldwide named as our enemies!, about the great success of Israel in helping African women to cultivate tomatoes and with this income to feed their families, about Israel's help and success in earthquake rescue, about that Israel is the only land with a decrease of desertification, when everywhere else desertification is increasing. We learned so much about this wonderful country and the inventions and affords made in Israel and we learned desperately moreover that all this positive things do not find entry in the world daily press or news, but the negative headlines do by unfair means always find their ways to be published.

Everything what Israel has afforded stands still on very small legs.  
It is still a very weak and small child and needs all our combined efforts to be supported.

All in all I understood that what once started with Theodor Herzl' words:  
If you will, it is not a dream finds its fulfilment with WIZO Making it all possible.

I thank you so much for this unique and special experience. I am certain that I will never forget the emotions, feelings and the fun I had during these days together with all the women from really every continent and I would like to end my report with a poem I found incidentally yesterday.

Yours sincerely

Natalie-Tali Rosenfeld

### **Plant a Tree**

**by Lucy Larcom (1826-1891)**

<http://www.hagalil.com/judentum/feiertage/baeume/gebet.htm>

He who plants a tree -  
Plants hope. . .  
He who plants a tree -  
Plants joy. . .  
He who plants a tree -  
Plants youth. . .  
He who plants a tree -  
Plants love. . .  
Gifts that grow are best  
Hands that bless are blessed  
Plant! Life does the rest!  
Heaven and earth  
Help who plants a tree  
And his work  
Its own reward shall be