



WIZO.  
Doing What  
Matters

Number 26

May 2022

Newsletter

# WIZO KESHER

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## A Journey through the Heartland of Isreal

At our last meeting Nichola Wallace gave a presentation of a part of Israel that few tourists, and even Israelis, get to see: the land, towns and villages on the main thoroughfare through the heartland of Israel, Samaria and Judea.



Replanting vineyards in the rocky but fertile soils which are first cleared of thorns and thistles. Shechem and Mt Gerezim in the background.

Going from Shechem and the mountains of blessings and curses in the north to Hebron in the south we saw how the land has been replanted and the towns rebuilt. Ancient ruins of Joshua's altar on Mount Ebal, the site of the tabernacle at Shiloh, ruins of Jeroboam's temple at Beit El and a water cistern dug into a hill top, testify to the long history of the Jews in this land.

We also saw the walls and fences that protect against terrorists but when that fails, the school in Shiloh helping children recover from terrorist trauma.

Busting the lie that all Arabs are being oppressed and live in poverty, we saw some of the many large houses and mansions in which they live.



Arab houses near Beit El (Bethel) just north of Jerusalem.



The Samaritan High Priest in their village on Mt Gerezim overlooking Shechem. He can trace his lineage back over 50 generations. They consider themselves more Jewish than the Jews.

**Steering Committee Members**  
**Nichola Wallace, Kiti Bruinsma, Betty Dykes and Margot Gray**



### Kiti Bruinsma

My connection to Israel began with having two older brothers who were soldiers serving with the Royal Fiji Military Forces. I remember going to the military base in Suva as a very young girl to say goodbye when they left for peacekeeping duties in Lebanon and Sinai. My oldest brother, a Lieutenant Colonel on his return, had stories to tell especially about the operation in Qana.

The weird thing I sometimes ponder on, is that my high school in Suva, Saint Josephs Secondary School run by Irish nuns, gave us books about Sinn Fein and the Protestants and Yasser Arafat and the Gaza Strip. Australia and New Zealand our closest neighbours were not part of the history lesson.

Nevertheless, I am also proud of my husband's grandfather whose name sits with others in Yad Vashem having hid and looked after a very young Jewish boy during World War II in Holland. My husband, Rients, who shares the name of his grandfather, had the opportunity to meet this little boy many, many, many years later in Israel. Dan Polk was 82.

I feel very honoured to be part of WIZO Keshar Sunshine Coast. I look forward to establishing new relationships and supporting various fundraising programs to assist Jewish women, youth and children in Israel.

### Nichola Wallace

My first connection with Israel, about which I knew almost nothing, was in 1995 as part of a longer trip. I crossed the border from Egypt near Gaza and left by ferry from Haifa, both of which are not possible now.

It was nearly 15 years later when I returned. This time I knew a lot more. I had learnt some Hebrew, made friends with Israelis whom I'd hosted and knew the political situation better. I'd also discovered that my grandmother's brother had fought in Egypt and Gaza in WW1 with the Australian Light Horse. He was captured by the Turks when he was wounded, died of his wounds in Nazareth and is buried in Haifa.

Over the years, I've visited Israel 4 times, travelling the tourist trails but also getting off the beaten track, all over the country, to experience the wonderful people, history, sites, tastes and cultures of this land that the Bible calls beautiful. For it surely is.

I've been supporting Israel several ways, first by hosting Israeli travellers, then by supporting a small group that helps Israeli soldiers and now by being a member of WIZO Keshar, helping with the work they do.

## Margot Gray

My connection with WIZO Keshet began with a High Tea where I met Rose Toms. Rose shared with me her love of Israel, her passion for the children, her journey with WIZO, the birth of Keshet and I guess it piqued my interest for this lady's passion. It wasn't long before we were sharing morning teas together and generally growing a deep abiding friendship with each other.

Little did I know that she had something else in mind. Then Rose rang early one morning saying that I was the person they were looking for to replace the Treasurer who was leaving. My response was NO! not interested! To cut a long story short, I have been and still am the Treasurer.

That's not the end of the story. As you all know, Rose retired after 30 years as President and a steering committee was set up. All was going well, however someone in the group had to step up and 'DO' the things that other people wouldn't do. In the committee we have a master strategist named Janet Roberts who then gave me a convincing word in my ear to step up. Again, I said NO! But, here I am.... the 'Interim President'.

## Betty Dykes

About 35 years ago my husband, Richard, and I made our first visit to Israel. This is when my eyes were opened to the events of the Holocaust. How to be so ignorant? However after a visit to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, my whole life changed. At that stage I did not know a Jewish person.

When in 1983, Rose Toms invited me to a meeting called WIZO, to help women and children in Israel, I signed up for membership immediately. Since that time I have now been wholeheartedly involved with WIZO on a local, state and federal level.

I have had the privilege of visiting Israel 11 times and have many Jewish women I call friends. What a privilege.

## Joanne Celebrates 90 years

Earlier this month, long time WIZO Keshet member, Joanne Holmes, celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends at Maroochydore RSL.

Many spoke with love of her life and achievements. She is a truly remarkable woman.

*L-R Joan Horvitz, Betty Dykes, Kiti Bruinsma, Nichola Wallace, Joanne, Margot Gray and Rose and Maurie Toms*



# Kosher Food

By Smadar Menashe

*Kashrut is a set of Jewish law dealing with what foods can and cannot be eaten and how those foods must be prepared and eaten.*



Although the details of kashrut are broad, the laws all come from a few fairly simple rules.

Certain animals may not be eaten at all. This restriction includes the flesh, organs, eggs and milk of the banned animals. This applies only to eating the animals.

However, you can play football with a pigskin ball or wear pigskin gloves or shoes.

1. Of the animals that may be eaten, the birds and mammals must be killed in agreement with Jewish law.
2. All blood must be drained from meat and poultry or broiled out of it before it is eaten.
3. Certain parts of acceptable animals may not be eaten.
4. Fruits and vegetables are permitted but must be inspected for bugs (which cannot be eaten).
5. Meat (the flesh of birds and mammals) cannot be eaten with dairy. Fish, eggs, fruits, vegetables and grains can be eaten with either meat or dairy. (According to some, fish may not be eaten with meat).
6. Utensils (including pots and pans and other cooking surfaces) that have come into contact with meat may not be used with dairy, and vice versa. Utensils that have come into contact with non-kosher food may not be used with kosher food. This applies only where the contact occurred while the food was hot.
7. Grape products made by non-Jews may not be eaten.
8. There are a few other rules that are not common.

Kosher dietary laws are observed all year round, for example, there are additional dietary restrictions during Pesach. Many foods that are kosher for year-round use are not "kosher for Passover." A bagel, for example, can be kosher for year-round use but is certainly not kosher for Passover! Foods that are kosher for Passover, however, are always kosher for year-round use.

Kosher food has to be prepared in a Kosher kitchen.



## BETTY'S QUILTS

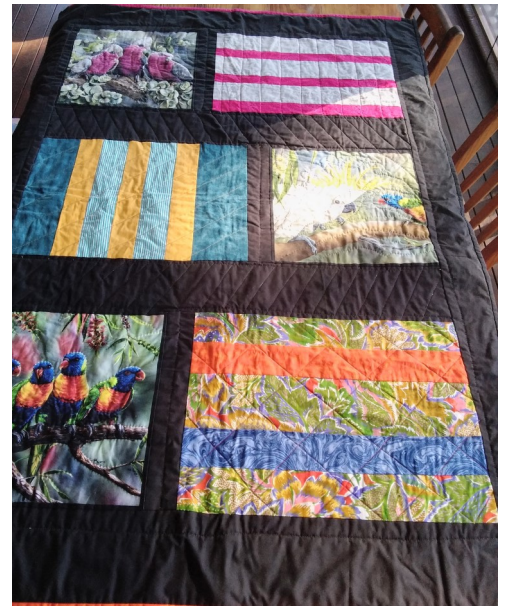
For about 20 years now, I have been able to use my addiction with patchwork, to make small quilts for the children who attend our boarding school, Ahuzat Yeladim, in Haifa, Israel. These children come from difficult and often neglected backgrounds, a gift of a quilt for them to keep as their own possession seems to help in the early stages of settling in. Of course they keep them when they leave, so this has been a never ending project!!

This project was started by a group of quilters from Western Australia, led by Annabel Samuelli z"l. When asked if the other states would be willing to help with funds to buy fabric, I corresponded with Annabel to see if our group here on the

Sunshine Coast would be allowed also to make quilts. I was given instructions of size to make and we have been sewing ever since. I did hear that Annabel had passed and now I am not sure if quilts are still being made in W A.

Because of the lockdown between countries, for 2 years there have not been any sent, so now the borders are open the quilts are on their way. I am always wanting travellers to Israel to take one with them, so if you are reading this and hope to go to Israel, let me know so I can get one to you. However, I have just heard from Annabel's son, David, that he will be coming to Australia in August and will take any quilts back to Israel, where he resides.

Wonderful.  
Betty Dykes



# Pesach (Passover) Celebration on the Sunshine Coast

This year Easter and Passover are celebrated on the same day. For Christians, the 'last supper' was the celebration of the "Passover Seder" by Jesus and his disciples.

On the evening of Saturday April 16th, Ignite Church held a Passover Celebration. Peter Roberts, current member of WIZO Kesher, was instrumental in the planning of this family event. Ignite Church Pastor, Darin Browne, led the evening into a glimpse of Biblical teachings and practices.

On the table is the Seder plate which contains 6 symbolic foods:

- ◆ *A lamb shank* represents the Passover Lamb
- ◆ *Parsley* represents the hyssop used to apply the lamb's blood to the doorway in Egypt
- ◆ *Charoset* A sweet mixture representing the mortar used between the bricks that the Israelites were making
- ◆ *2 kinds of bitter herbs* represents the bitterness of slavery in Egypt
- ◆ *Hard boiled or baked egg*, eaten with the meal

There is also a bowl of salt water, wine for the 4 cups that are drunk during the seder and a stack of 3 matzahs covered by a cloth. The matzah is unleavened, pierced and striped. During the seder, the middle matzah is broken in half and one half is wrapped then hidden to be found after the meal and eaten.



L-R:  
Margot Gray (Treasurer WIZO Kesher),  
Pauline Lamb, Shirley Sagar,  
Phillipa Rhodes  
(members WIZO Kesher)  
and Betty Dykes (Secretary WIZO Kesher).

# WIZO

## For the Advancement of Women In Israel

From its establishment in 1920, WIZO has been committed, as an International Zionist Women's Organisation, to advancing the status of women in Israel – in all spheres of life.

Rachel Kagan, who began her political activism on behalf of women in 1938, formed the Bureau for Social Workers for Jews and was elected to the National Executive Committee. It was within this framework that she signed the Declaration of Independence, together with only one other woman – the former Prime Minister of Israel Mrs. Golda Meir.

The highlight of Rachel Kagan's activities took place two years after her election to the First Israeli Knesset (Parliament), as the representative of WIZO and the Union of Women for Equal Rights. In 1951, whilst serving as WIZO's Chairperson, she submitted a proposal for the 'Family and Equality for Women Law' to the Knesset. Three months later, the government approved the law for legislation, now known as the '1951 Equal Rights for Women Law'.

Since then, WIZO has worked relentlessly for the advancement of women. It has established a support network, including day care centres, after-school and therapeutic child centres, as well as guided play centres, all of which enable women to work outside the home.

Moreover, WIZO offers women a variety of services to advance their rights and independence: legal advice bureaus, information centres for women's rights, educational frameworks for advancing women in politics, shelters for victims of domestic violence, centres for the prevention and treatment of violence in the family, emergency hotlines and more.

WIZO's activities relating to the advancement of the status and independence of women focus on four principle areas:

1. Advancement of legal rights
2. Treatment and prevention of violence in the family
3. Empowerment of women
4. Development of women's leadership



# Ukraine Appeal

As the war between Russia and Ukraine continues we have heard of the providence of God as he has made a way for people to escape from the destruction of their homes, etc. Many Jews have been brought home to Israel as they finally make Aliyah. But they come with almost nothing.

WIZO has been working hard in Israel to settle these people and also to provide for children who have been isolated from their families or arrived as refugees. Because this is ongoing we continue to feature this appeal.

You can direct bank deposit: Bank details are: BSB 484-799 Account No 6022 53941

**Be sure to include your name and reference the deposit "Ukraine Appeal"**

Or you can send a cheque to our Office: Postal Address: WIZO Keshet, Box 998, Buderim QLD 4556

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\*Remember all donations are tax deductible\*  
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For more information or **if you require a receipt**, please contact Treasurer Margot Gray:  
[wizokeshet.sc@gmail.com](mailto:wizokeshet.sc@gmail.com)

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## WIZO KESHER MEMBERSHIP 2022

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tick if you require a receipt**

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Transfer: BSB 484 799  
Acc. No: 6022 53941  
Acc. Name: WIZO Keshet  
Cheques to: PO Box 998  
Buderim Qld 4556

Membership Jan-Dec 2022 \$ 25.00

Gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include your name.**

Our unique status with ECOSOC and UNICEF at the U.N. requires our membership to be 'paid up members' thus enabling WIZO to have a representative with voting rights. So please renew your membership as soon as possible.

**We Value Your Support!**