



# HADASSAH®

AUSTRALIA



## FROM ZERO TO 100 - HADASSAH CELEBRATES ITS cenTENary YEAR

“In celebrating Hadassah’s centenary and a decade of service by Hadassah Australia, we have an opportunity to share our story with you; a story which has also touched the lives of many Australians. “Over the next 12 months, through the pages of the Australian Jewish News and elsewhere, we will talk about Hadassah Hospital’s pioneering work and the collaborative programs, especially between Israel and

Australia, that are lauded internationally.

“We will also introduce you to the people who are responsible for its remarkable achievements alongside ordinary Australians whose lives have intersected with Hadassah.”

**Ron Finkel**

President - Hadassah Australia



### Become a friend of Hadassah and you could WIN A TRIP TO ISRAEL!

This year will be the most exciting in the history of Hadassah, and you and a friend could win a trip to Israel including 5 nights’ accommodation to participate in our Centenary celebrations. Just register as a friend at [www.hadassahaustralia.org](http://www.hadassahaustralia.org) for your chance to win!

## THE FIRST DECADE 1912 - 1922

Much has been written about Henrietta Szold, yet for all the tributes that followed her death in 1945, few remember her.



Donkeys were the ideal couriers in the alleys of Jerusalem

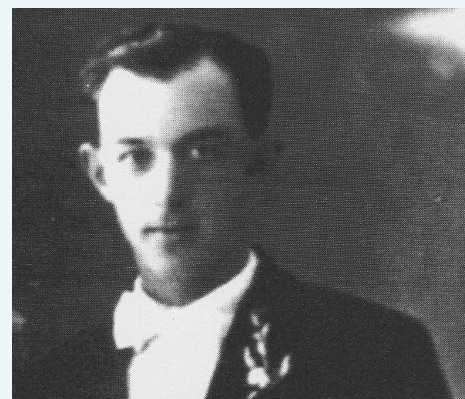
Her mission began in 1912 when she travelled to Palestine to bring health, education and welfare to the pre-state Jewish community of Palestine. The American-born rabbi’s daughter created Hadassah, an organisation best known for delivering medical outcomes of excellence through its hospital and beyond to the communities of the world. Hadassah created a visiting nurse program in Jerusalem and funded hospitals, dental facilities, x-ray clinics, a medical school, infant welfare stations, and soup kitchens for Palestine’s Jewish and Arab inhabitants. She actively encouraged reconciliation between Arab and Jew.

Australia has maintained a connection with Hadassah from the very beginning.

Eighty-four year old Osher Levin of Melbourne and his cousin, Myer Steinberg, speak proudly of their parents who both worked for Hadassah in the early years.

Says Osher: “My mother Chaya Rivka worked as an interpreter at Hadassah from 1919 to 1922 when she emigrated to Australia. Her skill with Arabic was encouraged by Henrietta Szold.”

Myer’s father, Yosef Aaron ‘Chaim’ Steinberg, delivered medication from the pharmacy around Jerusalem by horse and cart.



Yosef Aaron ‘Chaim’ Steinberg

These were difficult days but Szold was an idealist.

Sadly, she didn’t live long enough to witness Statehood. Szold missed the party that could well have been held in her honour: one that celebrated the birth of Israel and the rise of a noble ideal where the sanctity of human life is enshrined.



The Hadassah pharmacy brought western-style medicine to Palestine

## A SPECIAL GARDEN

KIDS TO BENEFIT FROM \$1.7M HADASSAH-JNF COLLABORATION

As an increasing number of urban dwellers move into high rise apartments, we are moving further away from nature and its restorative powers.

For most Israelis, apartment living is the only option they’ve ever known.

As one of the world’s leading environmental organisations, JNF has seen the beneficial effect of gardens, forests and tree planting on people over the course of a century.

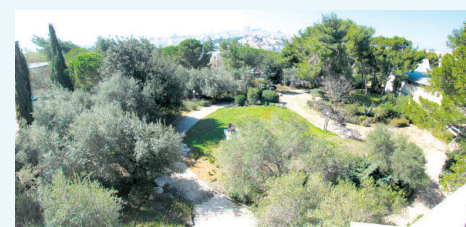
Healing gardens and their role as part of a therapeutic regime are well documented, especially at leading children’s hospitals around the world including the new Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne.

Hadassah Australia brought the idea to JNF after talking to the Jack and Robert Smorgon Families Foundation.

The Foundation was keen to explore a similar concept in Israel and agreed to become the Major Patron of the JNF-Hadassah Park Natural Environment Restoration project - a healing and environmental garden - at Hadassah Hospital’s Mt Scopus campus. The \$1.7 million project will be spread over one-and-a-half acres of prime natural bushland.

“For the thousands of paediatric patients who are treated at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus annually, and their families, this project will provide an amazing option for therapy; a healing sanctuary of calm and beauty in the heart of Jerusalem” says Ron Finkel, President of Hadassah Australia. “It is a commitment by the JNF and Hadassah to the physical and human environment of our capital city.”

In welcoming the collaboration between the two organisations, Michael Naphtali, National President of JNF Australia, said “This wonderful project helps to heal the environment. It makes us realise that protecting the environment is about sustaining future generations. This is the philosophy that has underpinned the work of JNF-KKL since its inception in 1901.”



Panoramic view of a section of the new garden site at Hadassah Mt Scopus

## SNAPSHOTS

### STEM CELL SUCCESS

Stem Cell Research, a highly-respected international journal, has agreed to publish a paper prepared by Monash University and Hadassah on the world’s first stem cell model of multiple sclerosis. The collaboration was made possible through a grant of \$450,000 provided by AUSiMED – the Australia-Israel Medical Research initiative – from a donation by Les Erdi OAM and Eva Erdi.

The principal authors are Professors Claude Bernard of Monash and Benjamin Reubinoff of Hadassah. The model will open up new ways to study the debilitating disease and test treatments for it.

### LIFE-SAVING INITIATIVE

Hadassah is helping to cut the incidence of AIDS among African men. Operation Abraham is a collaboration between Hadassah and the Jerusalem AIDS Project, which is being used as a model by UNAIDS in its program to circumcise an estimated 20 million men over five years. Recent evidence indicates that this simple procedure will cut the incidence of AIDS by 60%.

The idea developed out of Israel’s experience with more than 100,000 adult males from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia. They underwent circumcision to satisfy religious requirements.

### AN UNLIKELY ADVOCATE

“Israeli lawmakers should visit Hadassah and observe how Palestinian and Israeli cancer patients relate to each other with respect.”

These words were recently penned by Kamel Hussein, writer and founder of the first public relations firm in Palestine. Writing in one of Israel’s leading newspapers, he called for “The Hadassah Model” to prevail.

For 12 years, Hussein was a daily visitor to Hadassah where his mother underwent cancer treatment.

“At Hadassah, it doesn’t matter who you are; they encourage you to fight the disease...which is much more important than all our wars,” he said. “I never felt discriminated against in my dealings with the Jewish doctors and nurses.”

### AMANDA GORDON TAKES OVER NSW

The newly-installed President of Hadassah in NSW has good reason to support the organisation. Two of Amanda Gordon’s grandchildren were born at Hadassah Hospital, Ein Kerem. Amanda’s support of Hadassah is long-standing. She is one of Australia’s best-known psychologists and a Past President of the peak professional body, the Australian Psychological Society.

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