

**“Spectacular Six” Midwest Regions Fall Conference
October 21-22, 2017
Renaissance Chicago North Shore Hotel, Northbrook, IL**

**Co-Chaired by Susan Golding, Great Plains and
Greta Rothschild, Chicago-North Shore**

Saturday October 21, 2017

After a formal welcome from Susan and Greta, we heard Tales for a Shabbos Afternoon from Susan Stone, a highly skilled professional storyteller, who entertained and enlightened us as she shared stories of women, tzedakah, Israel and more.

Next, we listened to Henrietta Talks, the Hadassah version of Ted Talks. First, we heard from Peg Elefant, Vice Chair, Leadership, whose topic was on Building an Ark, Building a Community...What's the dif? Peg's remarks were based on the week's *Parashat of Noach* בנה פרשת, *Genesis 6:9 - 11:32* and Peg presented a way to think very differently about Noah and his ark of critters.

Secondly, we heard from Judy Shereck, Coordinator of PRAZE Division, on Day in the District. Judy pointed out how we can communicate with our legislators and gave examples of how Hadassah delegations have affected change on critical topics including anti-semitism.

Thirdly, Michele Rubin, Research Campaign Chair, presented on "Miracles of Medical Research at HMO" stressing that without research, there is no medicine. She also talked about some of the latest miracles at HMO.

Lastly, Carol Herzog, Past President Great Plains Region, conducted a moving and inspiring conversation with Bonnie Lipton, Past National President, who lives in the Chicago area.

Then it was time for dinner where we heard from the Consul General of Israel to the Midwest, Aviv Ezra. Mr. Ezra spoke about the three T's – technology, tikkun olam and tov explaining how Israel is instrumental in all three areas in Israel and

around the world. Mr. Ezra is an engaging speaker and he gave concrete examples of Israel's contributions to all three T's.

After dinner we enjoyed a beautiful Havdalah service led by Cantor Andrea Rae Markowicz, a third generation Hadassah member, who is the daughter of a chapter president in Central States and the first ordained cantor at Am Shalom in Glencoe, IL Cantor Markowicz's lovely voice and guitar playing enhanced the Havdalah service very much.

The evening concluded with world class entertainment by Howard Levy who is a multiple Grammy-award winner. Howard is not only an acknowledged master of the diatonic harmonica, but also a superb pianist and innovative composer who lives in the Chicago area. He has traveled all over the world and told wonderful stories of his adventures. His musical talents are amazing, especially when he plays the harmonica with one hand and the piano with another.

Following Howard, some attendees participated in a Tikkun Olam project making blankets for patients at HMO. Some chose to go to bed instead – it had been an action packed day.

Sunday, October 22, 2017

For those not required to attend a region board meeting at 7:30, there was a walk at 7 AM followed by Devi Stern, an Eden Energy Medicine practitioner and instructor from Highland Park. She spoke about Connecting Heaven and Earth through the Shema: Uniting Body & Spirit.

Otherwise, breakfast was available at 7:15 for the attendees of the board meetings for Great Plains, Central States and Upper Midwest, all of which included installations of incoming presidents and other region board members.

Morning Plenary:

By Janice Weinman, Hadassah Executive Director/CEO on "The State of the Non-Profit: Why Hadassah and Volunteerism in 2018". During her presentation, Janice explored how defending our rights and providing social services to others, voicing our opinions and explaining our connection to Israel are all aspects of volunteerism that define Hadassah. Hadassah provides unique value-added

experiences and opportunities to express our Jewish values in all aspects of life for Israel, in the United States, and within a sisterhood of like-minded women.

Breakout sessions followed for which each attendee had a choice of one
(The same breakouts were offered again after lunch)

A.

**Building Hadassah Community: Join us for an Engagement Party
Peg Elefant, Vice Chair, Leadership Department**

Peg engaged the leaders in attendance as the builders of the Hadassah community and discussed the nature of our common cause. Together we discussed the ways we empower ourselves and others. Together we spoke about how to build and strengthen our Hadassah communities. We gained a better understanding of and assessed our engagement with Hadassah.

B.

Supporting Research at Hadassah Medical Organization: Knowing the tools, understanding the opportunities, overcoming the angst and reaching your goals

Michele Rubin, Research Campaign Chair

Michele presented fun and creative ways to reach fundraising goals. She engaged the leaders to share how to educate and involve their community regarding HMO's work and new ways to help secure funding to support research at HMO.

C.

**Understanding Women's Health Equity
Judy Shereck, Coordinator PRAZE Division**

Janice Weinman, Hadassah Executive Director/CEO

Women and men often present different symptoms for the same diseases and react differently to certain drugs, medical devices, and treatments. Gender disparities in medicine put women at risk for misdiagnoses, ineffective treatments and compromised care. Judy and Janice used a clever question and answer technique to share information about the members of the Coalition for Women's Health and how each of our work contributes to the fight for women's health equity.

11:45 AM

Lunch with table discussions

Afternoon Plenary:

Led by Judy Shereck, Coordinator PRAZE Division, panel discussion on "Israel... It's Not the Same for Everyone: Join the Conversation!"

The word "Zionism" is often misunderstood. The concept of Zionism has dramatically shifted both inside and outside the Jewish community. Has the meaning changed since the establishment of the state of Israel? What is your definition of being a Zionist? The definition is different for each person.

3:15 PM**Membership - Show Your Enthusiasm!**

Melissa Karachalios, Director of Member Unit Services

We had a lively participatory discussion of how to reach out to potential new members. Lots of good ideas were shared.

3:45 PM**Closing Remarks**

Greta Rothschild and Susan Golding, Co-Chairs, thanked everyone for attending and also thanked the various speakers and staff.

4:00 PM

Conference Ends