

Hadassah ConneCTions

A PUBLICATION OF HADASSAH CONNECTICUT

VOL 3 • ISSUE 3 • DECEMBER 2016

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.



Hadassah Connecticut Annual Meeting with Chapter Awards and 2017 Region Board Installation

Metzuyan Award

Chapter of Excellence
Eastern Connecticut



Installation Program

Pennie Branden, Guest Speaker and Installing Officer & Sally Kleinman, outgoing region president

Kate Backman, Young Judaea Presenter & Joyce Backman, newly installed region president

Hadassah Connecticut Presidents Lieba Lander, Connie Freeman, Sally Kleinman, Joyce Backman, and Pennie Branden



Chapter Awards

Berkshire Hills
Cheshire
Fairfield

Greater Hartford
Greater Newtown/Danbury
Meriden - Wallingford

New Britain
Stamford

Westport



Chapter of the Year Award

Co-Recipients
Norwalk

Wepawaug-CT
Valley-West Rock





Region Board 2016

President	Sally Kleinman	203-259-5719 skleinman@hadassah.org
Vice Presidents		
Organizational	Joyce Backman	203-226-5260 jbackman@hadassah.org
Fundraising	Sandy Speter	203-322-4096 sandyspeter@yahoo.com
Membership	Alana Fodeman	203-254-3287 afodeman1@aol.com
PRAZE	Judy Rin	203-762-8116 judy.rin@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	Susan Schiffres	203-255-2532 smerrillws@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary	Jan Weiss	203-237-0200 janlweiss@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jessica Borden	860-232-5342 jessica.w.borden@gmail.com
Advocacy Chair	Beverly Stein	bastein@optonline.net
Bulletin Editor	Deborah R. Rosenfeld	860-206-4832 deb.rosenfeld6@gmail.com
Annual Giving Chair	Jodi Maxner	203-968-8711 jmaxner19@gmail.com
Area Vice Presidents	Janice Levy	203-374-1960 profl@sbcglobal.net
	Lieba Lander	203-847-8922 liebalander@gmail.com
Area Advisors	Susie Blumenfeld	203-454-3494 susieb@optonline.net
	Roz Etra	860-889-5817 roz620@aol.com
	Kim Fischburg	860-608-9223 kimfischburg@gmail.com
	Joyce Backman	203-226-5260
	Alana Fodeman	203-254-3287
	Sally Kleinman	203-259-5719
At-large Board Members	Roz Fleisher	203-329-8035
	Hazel Lepofsky	203-838-0515
	Leona Lepofsky	203-838-0515
	Iris Papale	203-294-0475
	Arden Schwartz	203-248-0327
	Bev Tcath	203-288-6645
Past President	Connie Freeman	203-968-0450 cfreeman@hadassah.org

President's Message

This is my last President's message to you! As you can see in the other pages of this Hadassah ConneCTIONS, a new Region president – Joyce Backman – was installed at our annual meeting on December 4.

Below are some portions of my "farewell" speech. Thanks to all who have supported me over these past three years. It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve as your President and I look forward to working with Joyce and the other members of the Hadassah Connecticut board in the years ahead.

When I began this journey three years ago, I think one of the best decisions I made as President was to give a "face" to the Region; so, I've driven more than 5,500 miles since my installation – visiting chapters, speaking at meetings, listening at board meetings, or simply sitting in the audience enjoying programs along with everyone else. I have truly treasured that part of my job and it is one part I will probably miss the most.

I am proud of what I helped our Region accomplish vis-a-vis Hadassah's domestic agenda. We successfully promoted advocacy through Day in the District (for which we won a National award this past summer at Hadassah's Convention for meeting with the highest percentage of our elected officials). We promoted Hadassah's health and wellness programs of "Every Beat Counts," then "Every Step Counts," and will be doing so with "Every Bite Counts" in 2017. And, with a great pin the Suffolk Region commissioned, we successfully pushed the idea of Annual Giving through Chai Society.

It's traditional for the "graduating" class of presidents to give a "legacy" speech at the summer National meetings; in my speech, I spent most of the time thanking the women who preceded me as Region president. You are here today: Connie Freeman, Lieba Lander, and Pennie Sessler Branden. You all served as role models for me in one way or another and I am most grateful for all of your help and guidance over these past three years.

And, finally, I want to thank Joyce. What can I say? We've been at this together for a long time. First, you led the way. Remember? You were Westport bulletin editor and then treasurer, and I followed you. Then we switched places and I became chapter president, then moved up to the Region Board as treasurer, then OVP, then Prez – and you followed in lock step. As I said, we've been at this together for a long time! That's why I am pleased to pass on this gavel of leadership.

But also – Hadassah pins. You never remember to wear them! But I have another one for your collection. It comes



Meet the 2017 Region Board



Joyce Backman
President

Joyce was made a life member of Hadassah by her grandmother. She is married to Ken and they have 2 children, Spencer, 20, and Kate, 17. Joyce and her family have been to Israel multiple times. Joyce is a Keeper of

the Gate and a Circle of Founders donor.

In Westport, Joyce has held several Hadassah board positions including: president for 3 non-consecutive terms. On the Region level her board portfolios have included recording secretary, treasurer, chapter advisor, and organizational vice president.

Joyce is a nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Vanderbilt University and a Masters in Public Health Policy and Management from Columbia University. Currently Joyce works as the Business Manager for an Allergy & Asthma practice in Fairfield and Monroe, CT.

During her free time, Joyce practices TaeKwonDo and is training for her third degree black belt.

=====



Jessica Borden
Organizational Vice President

Jessica first became active in the Capitol Area Chapter, when she "retired" from working as a State of Connecticut Budget Analyst to stay home with her children 16 years ago. She has been on her chapter board since 2001,

serving as Treasurer and President for many years. She was part of the team that merged the Capitol Area and Hartford Chapters a few years ago and served as the first co-President of the Greater Hartford Chapter. She is currently the Program VP of the Greater Hartford Chapter. Jessica has served on the Region Board as Treasurer and Region Communication VP.

Jessica and her husband, Rick, have been married for 26 years. They have 2 children, Molly and Zachary, and a Miniature Schnauzer named Sadie.



Fran Rackson
Treasurer

Fran joined the Westport Chapter of Hadassah as a life member in 2011. She served as chapter Treasurer from 2012 - 2016 and concurrently held the positions of Cards Chair and Community Outreach Co-chair. She

was also an active committee member on chapter fundraisers.

Fran has been involved with a number of other non-profits in Fairfield County and, before moving to Connecticut, she worked at a large international accounting firm in their New York office.

Fran is excited to be joining the Region board.

=====



Susan Schiffres
Corresponding Secretary

Susan joined Hadassah on Oct 21, 1965 – the day Mt Scopus was rededicated and the Cheshire Chapter of Hadassah was begun, becoming a charter member. She became a life member in 1978. She later created a 4th generation Life Member family joining her

grandmother and gifting her Mother-in-law and daughter.

Susan was chapter treasurer, many times for many years. Additionally, she was VP for Fundraising and Chapter President in 1985. Susan has the unusual distinction of being the Region Treasurer under 3 different Presidents – Susan Mark, Nancy Wiadrow, and Doris Greenberg, and was an advisor for numerous chapters. She was also the Region Fund Raising Liaison.

Susan has traveled with Hadassah to Israel and to National Convention with Past National President Judith Epstein, who was in her 90's and shared incredible stories.

For the last six years, Susan has also been committed to helping Temple Beth David of Cheshire in their Mitzvah Garden. She credits her Hadassah experience for teaching her the skills to secure an Office Manager and Bookkeeper position she held for 19 years. Now she is enjoying her first grandchild, Miles. She feels so fortunate to know this joy.



Sharon Sobel
Recording Secretary



Sharon has been President or Co-President of Norwalk Hadassah for the past six years. She is also a District Vice President of Women of Reform Judaism, a member of its National Board, and has been active on the Temple B'nai Chaim

Sisterhood Board (Georgetown, Connecticut) for over thirty years. Having earned her PhD in English Language and Literature from Brandeis University, she is a professor at Norwalk Community College and the author of fourteen novels and novellas.

Sharon and her husband Ken have been married for over forty years and raised their three children in Newton, Massachusetts, The Hague, and Wilton, Connecticut. They have two grandchildren, and expect another before Chanukah.

=====

Carol Curland
PRAZE Vice President



Hadassah has been Carols surrogate family, through the good times and the bad, for many years gaining love and strength from the women she works

with. She has been and is the President/Co-President of Eastern CT Chapter for four years. Carol has also chaired the Eastern Donor Dinner, Wear Pink Campaign, Book Clubs, Coffee Klatches as well as the National Award Winning Program, The Power of Purple.

Carol is proud of the great team within the Eastern Chapter and the tremendous spirit and love that goes into every project.

Alana Fodeman
Membership Vice President



Alana has been a member of Hadassah for 30 years, serving as President of the Fairfield Chapter for 13 years. She and the Fairfield Hadassah Board have raised over 1 million dollars during her tenure. She has been on the region Board for many years serving as an advisor to numerous chapters. She and her husband, Alan, are Zionists who support Hadassah and are donors at the Circle of Founders level. They have visited Israel eight times, including for the dedication of the Judy and Sidney Swartz Center for Emergency Medicine.

In addition, to her work with Hadassah, she has served on the boards of National Women's Division of Israel Bonds, Jewish Senior Services, Brandeis Women, National Council of Jewish Women, and Federation for Jewish Philanthropy.

Alan and Alana, have been married for 47 years, and are the proud parents of Hadassah members Morris Fodeman and Cydney Fodeman, and grandparents of Hadassah members Jacob Slack, Lucas Fodeman, Ayden Dedrick-Fodeman, Zachary Fodeman and Harper (Hadassah) Fodeman.

=====

Jodi Maxner
Communications Vice President



A 35-year resident of Stamford, Life Member of Hadassah, and proud Keeper of the Gate, Jodi originally hails from Massachusetts. Most recently serving as the Annual Giving Chair for the CT Region, Jodi's "Volunteer" hat has spanned a breadth and depth of experiences within the nonprofit community. An active and successful collaborator for women's issues, health issues, and for the arts and consonant with a mission of collaborating for the common good, Jodi has logged in hundreds of volunteer hours across a spectrum of organizations. Prior to serving on the Region Board, Jodi was Co-President, Programming and Education Chair, and Recording Secretary for the Stamford Chapter. Her commitment, leadership and community activism for Stamford Hadassah garnered her the distinct honor of being named "Woman of the Year" by the Chapter for her Hadassah leadership.

In her professional life, Jodi began as a Special Educator and presently works for Jewish Family Services (JFS) as a Job Developer and as a Singer/Soloist for a church in White Plains, NY. Jodi's goal at both JFS and Hadassah is to motivate others to reach their full potential and continue to promote health, wellness and advocacy.



Roz Etra

Area Vice President

Roz, a Life member since 1976, is following in the footsteps of her mother, Eva Himmelstein. Roz has held numerous positions in the Norwich Chapter including 3 terms as President. She was also a Region Hand of Healing honoree and won a National Leadership Award. Roz has been on the Region Board since the 1980's holding various portfolios.



Upon graduating in 1973 from the Hartt School of Music of the University of Hartford, Roz taught music in the Colchester Public Schools for 41 years, retiring in June 2014. At Hartt, Roz was a member of Mu Phi Epsilon and the first captain of the original women's basketball team at the University of Hartford. Roz helped to develop the Award Winning Intergenerational Program: "The Gift Goes On" at Colchester Senior Center.

Roz volunteers with her musical talents all over the state at nursing homes, Rotary, the soup kitchen, senior centers, and other charity and civic organizations. Roz is a member of many state and local organizations including the board of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut and Vice President of Beth Jacob Synagogue in Norwich.

Roz lives in Norwich with her husband, Joel. They have 2 daughters (Life Members), Dori Etra Clarke (husband Matt) of Fair Lawn, New Jersey; Dr. Beth Etra (husband Jon) of Philadelphia; and first grandchild, 2-year-old Ava Dona Clarke.

=====

Janice Levy

Area Vice President

Janice has been a life member of Hadassah since 1998, joining with a group of neighbors. On the Fairfield board, she has held almost every position and has been President for 6 years. In her pre-Hadassah life, Janice graduated from the University of Bridgeport as a dental hygienist.

When not doing volunteer work for Hadassah, Janice is on call for the Rodeph Sholom kitchen and soup kitchen for a church in Bridgeport. She makes quilts for charities and donates them to sell.

Janice and her husband, David have made their children, grandchildren, and spouses, Hadassah members and Associates. Janice has dogs and cats and her specialty is adopting an older animal that no one else wants.

Sally Kleinman

Area Adviser

Sally has spent the last three years as Region president and is looking forward to a quieter tenure on the Hadassah Connecticut board. Prior to serving as President, Sally was Treasurer and then OVP. She joined Hadassah when she participated in the Hadassah Leadership Academy, learning along side other future leaders in this 2-year long educational program. She served on her chapter board in a number of capacities, before becoming Chapter president.

Sally spent her professional career on Wall Street as an economist. Now retired, she enjoys vegetable gardening, hiking, golf, and travel. She is married to Hadassah associate, Larry, and has two grown daughters, Carlie and Rebecca, both Life members of Hadassah.



=====

Lieba Lander

Area Adviser

As a member of the Norwalk Chapter since 1969, Lieba has held many chairmanships and every vice-presidency, as well as the Presidency eight times. On the Region level she held many portfolios prior to becoming an Area Vice-President, the Organization Vice-President, and then Region President in 2007. This was followed by six years on the National Board.

She and husband Steven are the proud parents of Joshua and wife Jill, Deborah and husband Omry, and Karen. They have four amazing grandchildren, Ari and Evan, Eliav and Danielle. They are a four generation life membership family and the men are all associates.



While being a full time volunteer, she is happily employed for 22 years at Chabad Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center as a Morah and Resouce Coordinater.



Liz Kaner
Area Adviser

=====

Deborah Rosenfeld
Bulletin Chair

Debbie has been a life member of Hadassah since her bat mitzvah. She first became active in the Aliza Group of the Baltimore Chapter as a newlywed, and held several positions in both the group and chapter. While a member of the Rhode Island Chapter, Debbie was privileged to be sent to Israel on Young Leaders Mission #5 and served as Treasurer under two presidents of the Western New England Region. Before moving to CT, she became a Keeper of the Gate. Debbie was part of the transition board that merged several chapters into Hadassah Greater Hartford and now serves as co-president.

In a former life, Debbie was a computer programmer and now calls herself a Professional Volunteer. Besides Hadassah, her synagogue and the public schools benefit from her involvement. She has been married to Glen since 1991, and they have three children, Joshua, Benjamin, and Sarah (the only teenager left in the family). They are all Associates or Life Members, and Debbie proudly wears her 3-generation pin.



Susie Blumenfeld
Women-in-Business Chair

Susie got active with Hadassah 24 years ago when she had one baby girl. She has held various positions within the Westport Board including Fundraising VP and President of the Chapter. Along the way, as

Susie got more involved in Hadassah, she had more baby girls and has 3 grown/college age women now.

Twelve years ago Susie started her own event planning business (Pink House Productions, LLC). The business affords her opportunities to meet women who are potential new members for Hadassah. As Susie got busier with her business, she got more involved in Hadassah again. This time as Westport's Chapter Advisor and currently as the Chapter II Co-Chair (a group of women who are empty nesters, and meet to discuss life, Hadassah and anything else).

=====

Debbie Kaye
Annual Giving Chair

Debbie is a Life Member of Hadassah and has been involved with the Meriden Wallingford chapter for more than 20 years, serving as President, Fund Raising VP, and recording secretary. She is a past Hand of Healing recipient. On the Region level, Debbie has been an Advisor, AVP, Recording Secretary, and co-PRAZE coordinator. She is excited to rejoin the Region board.

Debbie has been married for 35 years to David, a Hadassah associate. Their daughter Rachel, also a Life Member was recently married in November. Debbie has been an RN for almost 40 years and currently works as a Nurse Case Manager at Gaylord Hospital.

=====

President's Message *(continued from page 2)*

from Eveleen Zimmerman from the Manchester Chapter. It's quite old. It is in the shape of a key and says "Hadassah - Scopus" on it. She wasn't sure when she got it or why, but when I asked her if the Region could have it, she said yes. And, so I pass it on to you, with the expectation you will pass it to the NEXT Region president. It's a symbol of the fact that YOU hold the key to Hadassah Connecticut's success in the next three years. May you wear this pin proudly.

Region adviser and I'll be advising a few other chapters as well. At the National level, I'll be working as an Annual Plan Manager in the Member and Unit Services Division, helping Regions to budget and plan for the future.

So I'm still around. I have made many friends across the Region these past years. And I thank you for all that you done – for me, for the Region, for your chapters and for Hadassah.

And so where am I going next? Well, I am happy to be back involved with my own Westport chapter as its

Sally Kleinman
President, 2014-2016



Region Event!

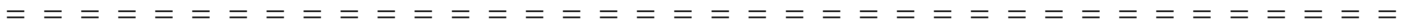
**Progressing Towards a Cure
to Support Multiple Sclerosis Awareness and Research
with THREE Walks around our state
Sunday, March 5**

50% of medical research done in Israeli hospitals happens at Hadassah's hospitals. The future of medicine begins in the laboratory. Research at Hadassah has world-wide impact and our physician-researchers perform a great service to humanity.

We will raise money for this research corresponding with Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month in March.

We will be walking for the over 2.3 million people worldwide who suffer from MS; 2-3 times more common in women than men. Multiple Sclerosis is an unpredictable and often disabling autoimmune disease, where a patient's own immune cells attack the nerve covering – an insulating layer called myelin – of the brain, which disrupts the flow of information from the brain to other parts of the body.

Watch for details about the walk nearest to you.



Thoughtful Contributions

Region Donors*

Thank you for all of your contributions including Mother's Day, Yahrzeit contributions, Hadassah magazine contributions, online donations, Greatest Need and other Hadassah appeals:

- Ronni Berman
- Marion Bixon
- Minnie Cohen
- Sydonie Gelman
- Sonya H. Goldberg
- Ruth Jacobson
- Donna E. Kemper
- Carl S Klorman
- Reeva C. Lynes
- Ellen B. Milstone
- Bernice M Quint
- Ida Shiner
- Jane Silverman
- Betty Lear Sumner
- Jonathan G Wolfman

* Members of Hadassah Connecticut who are not members of a specific chapter

Parkinson's Research in Service to Humanity

Thank you for your gifts to Parkinson's Research at Hadassah, in honor of Sally Kleinman for her term as Hadassah Connecticut President, 2014-2016:

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Joyce Backman | Ilene Frost | Deborah |
| Sandra Beckman | Faith Helene | Rosenfeld |
| Karen Bloustine | Helen Kosmin | Paula Samuel |
| Jessica Borden | Lieba Lander | Michelle Scher- |
| Pennie Branden | Terrie Langer | Saunders |
| Linda Caplan | Leona Lepofsky | Susan Schifres |
| Claudia Cohen | Hazel Lepofsky | Jaime Seltzer |
| Carol Curland | Susan Mark | Sharon Sobel |
| Wendy Engel | Jodi Maxner | Beverly Stein |
| Madeline Field | Bonnie Norman | Bev Tcath |
| Kim Fischburg | Amanda Parker | Nancy Wahler |
| Roslyn Fleisher | Fran Rackson | Gayle Weinstein |
| Alana Fodeman | Judy Rin | Janice Weiss |
| Connie Freeman | | Nancy Wiadro |

As of Dec. 15, we have raised \$1,314 for this project. The fund hasn't closed yet, so additional contributions are welcome. Send a check, payable to Hadassah, to:

Jessica Borden
32 Lakeview Drive
West Hartford, CT 06117



PO Box 11
Westport, CT 06881-0011

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage Paid
Westport, CT
Permit No. 58

Contact Us

by E-mail: Connecticut@hadassah.org
 by US Mail: NEW ADDRESS AS OF JANUARY 1
 Hadassah Connecticut
 31 Gault Park Drive
 Westport, CT 06880
 by Phone: 203-307-1319
 website: www.hadassah.org/regions/connecticut

Around the Region: Upcoming Events, Winter 2017

	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Jan 19	Installation and Membership Dinner	Cheshire	Cheshire
Jan 19	<i>Din and Tonics</i> , Harvard a capella group	Westport	Westport
Jan 24	Game Night	West Hartford	Greater Hartford
Jan 29	Candlepin Bowling Event	—	Berkshire Hills
Feb 7	Mah Jongg	—	Berkshire Hills
Feb 8	<i>Exceptional Jewish Women of Connecticut</i> , presented by the CT Women’s Hall of Fame (joint program with 2 Sisterhood groups)	West Hartford	Greater Hartford
Feb 12	Book Club	Cheshire	Cheshire
Feb 26	Hamentashen Event	Cheshire	Cheshire
March 5	Walk for MS, 3 sites around the state	3 locations	CT Region
March 12	<i>Purim!</i>		
April	<i>Power of Purple Luncheon</i>	—	Eastern CT
April 2	Region Meeting and Program	TBD	CT Region
April 30	Fashion Show with Chico’s	—	Norwalk

We are saddened to announce the passing of Harriet T. Raffel, of Bridgeport, on September 9, 2016. She was a Past President of our Region, from the Bristol Chapter. Harriet was the widow of William A. Raffel, and is survived by two children, Nancy and Richard Raffel.

Donations in her memory may be made to Hadassah, c/o Jessica Borden, 32 Lakeview Dr, West Hartford, CT 06117

May God comfort the mourners together with all the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Email addresses needed!

- Stay abreast with Hadassah happenings in Israel, nationally, and around CT
- Receive timely messages from National President Ellen Hershkin
- Get updates on issues relating to U.S. advocacy
- Opt out of emails of less interest to you
- Don't put it off! Send your updated email address to Connecticut@hadassah.org