

Hadassah ConneCTions

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

HADASSAH 
the power
of women
who DO™



National President Ellen Hershkin pinning new Keeper of the Gate, Carol Curland



Gwyneth Paltrow at the Opening Plenary



Past Region President Pennie Branden addressing the convention



Look for the sign to find where our Region is sitting at each Plenary!
LEFT: Joyce Backman
RIGHT: Nancy Feigel



CT Region Dinner before the Opening Plenary



The CT Region Delegation to Convention

TOP: Deborah Rosenfeld, Ellen Masters, Sherry Boulton, Rosalind Kopfstein, Carol Curland, Sheila Horvitz, Susan Schifres;
FRONT: Nancy Feigel, Joyce Backman, Connie Freeman, Sally Kleinman, Judy Nishman, Eveleen Zimmerman, Karen Bloustine;
MISSING: Pennie Branden, Associate Alan Freeman

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Email addresses needed!

- *Stay abreast with what's happening at Hadassah in Israel, nationally, and around Connecticut*
- *Receive timely messages from National President Ellen Hershkin*
- *Get updates on issues relating to U.S. advocacy*
- *Opt out of any emails of less interest to you*
- *Don't put it off! Send your updated email address to OVP Joyce Backman at: joyceb@optonline.net*

HADASSAH, THE WOMEN'S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, INC.

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President's Message

Short of going to Israel on a Hadassah mission, there is nothing like a National Convention to get you energized about Hadassah and the myriad of projects, activities, and good works that make this organization of dedicated women so dear to our hearts.

Just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of leading a 16-member contingent from our Region (including one Associate) as we travelled south to Atlanta, Georgia. I never imagined Georgia in July would turn out to be cooler than the sweltering heat in the Northeast that week!

At Convention, we listened to outstanding and inspirational speakers and National leaders, attended smaller break-out sessions that explored in greater detail some of the issues covered in the plenaries, and participated in hands-on trainings, which taught us valuable and practical skills to bring back to our chapters. Oh, and because it was a Hadassah event, there was plenty of dining, "desserting," dancing, singing, and rejoicing in sisterhood.

On the pages that follow, I hope you will get a small taste of what we experienced at Convention. And do take a look at www.hadassah.org/national-convention.html, along with the Region's Facebook page, for pictures and videos. Can you find any familiar faces??

I am particularly proud that Hadassah Connecticut was awarded the Day in the District National Advocacy award for arranging the highest percentage of meetings with our Federal legislators in the past year. And, kudos to the Eastern Connecticut Chapter for winning the prestigious Hannah L. Pollack Award for the most outstanding Jewish Zionist education study group (see page 9). And last, but not least, congratulations to Wendy Engel, co-President of the Norwalk Chapter. She received an honorable mention for the "Szold on Fundraising" Fundraising Leadership Award 2016, due to her tireless work on the chapter's annual "Norma Lenore Woman of Valor" luncheon. I couldn't be prouder of all of these achievements!

The next National Convention will take place in 2018. Why not plan now to join us? You will not regret a single moment!

In the meantime, I hope you will consider coming to the Hadassah Connecticut Region meeting on Sunday, December 4, at the Marriott in Shelton; we will be installing a new Region board for 2017 and giving out awards to our outstanding chapters for noteworthy bulletins, programs, membership, and fundraising events. Watch your mail and email for more details as we get closer.

Enjoy the rest of summer and I hope you have a meaningful High Holiday season.

Sally Kleinman, President



CONVENTION: A First-Timer's Impression

by Rosalind Kopfstein, Berkshire Hills Chapter

The *Power of Our Dreams* theme resonated throughout each dynamic day. 950 attendees cheered, clapped, praised, and were eager to learn more about Hadassah's impact on the world. Attending my first Hadassah convention was made easier seeing so many from our region – the first-timer labels were a big help as well. Experiencing so many introductions throughout the four days was both exciting and somewhat intimidating. The convention App on our phone was also quite helpful – keeping us on track. Most exciting were the large plenaries with outstanding speakers and celebrities keeping us up-to-date with Hadassah initiatives and ongoing programs such as Youth Aliyah and especially the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO). With so many beautiful voices singing Hatikvah together, the convention was on its way.

The most disturbing session was about a terror victim. A family member who spoke so glowingly about the HMO doctors and their special relationships with patients was both

mesmerizing and sad. One of the plenary speakers from the HMO wondered *why do you do this* – what makes Hadassah women so dedicated to Israel? He admired our dedication so he can save patients in Jerusalem.



The business meeting was dynamic, with critical discussions of the proposed dues change (which did not pass). It was truly a democratic discussion. I found the morning of hands-on workshops helpful – I have a lot to learn about public relations. All in all, we learned about Hadassah's many initiatives, we were entertained, we met like-minded people and we were enlightened about the missions of Hadassah's Women Who Do.

We first-timers are ready, willing, and able to rally with all members to "Dare to dream... and when you dream, dream big," as said by Henrietta Szold.

CONVENTION: Learn to Combat BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction)

by Deborah R. Rosenfeld, Greater Hartford Chapter

Noam Gilboord, Director of Israel and International Affairs at the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of New York, led an informative and instructive session about the BDS movement. All attendees received a copy of Hadassah's How to Talk About Israel, a useful booklet updated in collaboration with the Israel Action Network, an initiative of the Jewish Federations of North America. The booklet can be downloaded from Hadassah.org.

The goal of the BDS movement is to delegitimize the State of Israel. While the country does have its flaws, as all do, the BDS leaders use half-truths to cross the line of political discussion to demonize and isolate the country. Remember that although BDS is anti-Semitic (it calls for the dissolution of the Jewish state), not all supporters of the movement are anti-Semitic – they simply cannot see beyond the issue of human rights for Palestinians.

Mr. Gilboord explained that when discussing this topic, it is important to understand your audience. One should keep their emotions out of the conversation and explain that the situation is complicated with many shades of gray. He divided the people of the US into 5 groups and defined which is our target:

- 8% simply hate Israel: there is no discussion, and one should not engage this group;
- 22% are the core supporters, includes Jews and Evangelicals: they do not need convincing;
- 26% are soft support: they can't explain why, but they support Israel;
- 34% are disengaged and just don't care: not worth your effort;
- 10% are vulnerable, and therefore persuadable; this is where we can make a difference. This group includes college kids, liberals, women, minorities, and professors of the Arts and Humanities.

Begin by taking stock of your relationships and making connections with people on other common concerns; build up to discussing Israel. Work as the JCRC does, behind the scenes, educating people within the target group and let them, as an insider, inform their group.

The JCRC has many successful stories to share, but rather than draw further attention to the issue, they quietly carry on with their mission to build community.



CONVENTION: Be Bold: Increase Your Hadassah Impact

by Susan Schiffres, Cheshire Chapter

Hadassah National Vice President Carol Rosenthal, and Karen Everett, National Chair of Marketing and Communications, presented us with ways to share the knowledge, pride, and excitement from Convention.

They emphasized NOT to just report to our boards, but go far beyond that. Bring our message to others outside of Hadassah – to the community, to doctors. Use social media. Our experience is only as good as the passion we take home with us. We need to show what sparked us or moved us to tears in the HMO Plenary. We need to THINK BIG and CRAZY. Think forward AND backward by design – envision what you want, analyze where you are, and figure out what you need to get there.

The formula for planning successful events is following the “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” and “how” principals.

- Who is your target audience? Maybe it is a stage of life or shared interests. Meet the audience where they are and what makes them feel better.
- What defines the initiative? Why is it important? Will it change the world?
- When – timing is everything. It can be defined by

the season, the weather or the holidays. Always check the community calendar for conflicts.

- Where – consider space needs, price, availability, transportation. Perhaps find a creative location.
- How to create the best bridge between Hadassah and your audience? Whether it be a social event, social media campaign, education series...

An ad hoc example: It is well known that after the Boston Marathon bombings, Mass. General Hospital was better able to deal with the casualties because of (previously received) training from Israeli emergency medical experts to help upgrade the hospital's disaster response plan. Why not create a program centered around orthopedic doctors and surgeons? Reach out to them to communicate the advancements at Hadassah. Compliment them on all they do and suggest they might be able to share techniques with Israeli doctors. Perhaps it could be held at a golf or tennis outing – someplace they might be congregating anyway.

The session ended with participants' collective promise to bring Hadassah home to their chapters and community, for the benefit of the world.

CONVENTION: Research in Service to Humanity

Powerful Stories. Powerful Breakthroughs.

by Judy Nishman, Berkshire Hills Chapter

Hadassah has been actively spreading the word about the cutting-edge research being done at Hadassah Hospitals in Jerusalem, and many of us have been hearing quite a lot about several medical advances being made by Hadassah doctors in treating and combatting ALS, MS, age-related macular degeneration, melanoma, diabetes, and more. These topics were covered in brief at the end of the session.

The main focus of the session, however, was a very informative and timely discussion about the Zika virus.

We learned that the World Health Organization asked the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) laboratory at Ein Kerem to study the virus, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) sent samples to Dr. Dana Wolf, Head of Clinical Virology Unit in the Department of Infectious Diseases at HMO. Guest speaker Dr. Sherif Zaki, Chief of Infectious Disease Pathology at the CDC, led the discussion.

We learned that 80% of the people infected have no symptoms and if anyone has symptoms, they are very mild. However, the risk to a fetus in the first six to 10 weeks of pregnancy is VERY severe, causing eye damage, brain damage, and joint involvement.

The Zika virus is transmitted through mosquitoes, but also through sexual contact, and probably blood transfusions and organ transplants. It may be transmitted through animals in markets and contaminated water; these methods are still being studied.

At this time, the main prevention is to avoid areas where the virus is prevalent (which is becoming more difficult as the virus is spreading rapidly) and to do everything possible to avoid insect bites.

Much more research needs to be done – and Hadassah doctors are working to provide answers.



CONVENTION: Israeli Security - From Airspace to Cyberspace

by Karen Bloustine, Eastern CT, and Sally Kleinman, Westport Chapters

After a fascinating plenary that explained the intricacies of Israel's Iron Dome – which protects populated areas of Israel from short-range missile attacks – this break-out session delved into the commercial applications that can be derived from this technology. The session was led by Natan Barak, CEO of mPrest, who retired from the Israeli Navy after 23 years; he started the company to manufacture a modified command and control module for civilian use, and outlined the many potential uses. "Everything is going to be connected – we see it in our smart phones."

One of the remarkable features of the firm's technology is easy programming. Within one day, a person can be trained to program the command and control module. It is easily adaptable: the programmer can set the parameters of what sets off a sensor, or what type of activity is being monitored. He gave an example: car theft in most places usually involves an unoccupied car being "removed" from its

location by an unauthorized driver; in Brazil, it often takes the form of a hijacking. So, sensors in Brazil can be placed in the trunk of the car (where the official driver is often stashed) or an alarm could go off if the vehicle – scheduled to make a delivery in one part of town, for instance – veers off course and goes in the completely wrong direction.

Listening to his presentation nearly all the audience was in awe of his keen intellect. Many of us were merely sitting with our mouths open, and thinking "WOW, this is a prime example of Israeli ingenuity." One use already in place is the predictive abilities for maintenance at power facilities (oil and gas, electric, water), and another for the future (smart refrigerators that can track which food supplies are getting low and relay a message to the grocery and hold it for delivery to your home) were just a few of the many possibilities for this system. He hopes that everyone will be using this device in the near future.

CONVENTION: Hadassah at the UN: Playing a Vital Role

by Connie Freeman, Stamford Chapter

Moderated by our UN Team Leader Ruth Cole with Team Members Judy Padolf and Rae Gurewitsch, the session was informative, engaging, and highlighted the broad influence that our team has built at the United Nations despite the many challenges they face. Our UN team presents programs to the Commission on the Status of Women, and represents Hadassah's mission to the United Nations. Hadassah has consultative status to the Economic and Social Council which gives us an entrée to several other institutions.

The UN Team was pleased to present guest speaker Nelly Shiloh, Advisor and Counselor in the Human Rights Division at the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations. "Hadassah's values – which embrace change, personal growth, pluralism, and social responsibility – all resonate with the work we do every day at the Human Rights Division of the Israeli Mission," Shiloh said. She discussed the challenges in the Middle East today, and for Israel at the United

Nations. Shiloh states that tolerance and mutual understanding are the way to peace, but progress can only be made if there is mutual understanding and discussion between parties for the agreement.

The ensuing presentation and discussion reinforced the importance of diplomacy behind the scenes, even when Israel and given countries do not have formal diplomatic relations. Hadassah's team puts a major emphasis on women's issues – health and empowerment – and Israel and Zionism. They meet regularly as part of the Commission on the Status of Women and they are also on the "Working Group on Girls" that addresses issues of genital mutilation and child marriage. The Jewish Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) go as a block to as many meetings as possible because it raises visibility and sends a message.

Check out UN program *Alphabet Soup* at the United Nations, available on myHadassah!

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CONVENTION: End Human Trafficking

by Karen Bloustine & Carol Curland, Eastern CT Chapter

Stephanie Z. Bonder, President of Hadassah Northern NJ, moderated this break-out session on sex trafficking with an emphasis on the high incidence rate in the United States.

Each speaker stressed that girls and boys are lured into the sex trade quite easily by predators/controllers, both men and women. It is important for medical personnel in the ER or Walk-In Clinic to look for signs of abuse and to teach in the schools how to avoid being pulled into this life. And it is necessary to go after those that pay money for sex with children.

Sharron Brown, author of *I Found My Voice: My Journey Through Sex Trafficking and Exploitation*, told her story of being molested as a child – repeatedly – and how important it is to speak out about the issue.

Martha Dodd, Child Abuse Nurse Practitioner, emphasized how important it is for people to intervene to protect children. Progress is being made, and it is so important to change the

language, from “child prostitution” to “victim of sexual exploitation.”

Jennifer Swain, Deputy Director of youthSpark (formerly the Juvenile Justice Fund), spoke of the importance of prevention, and of working both to help victims and to decrease the demand. *"We've decided to not just rescue girls anymore... but to intervene to ensure that the child is able to live a successful life free from abuse."*

Dalia Racine, Deputy Chief ADA in the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office, Human Trafficking Unit, stressed that as education increases, awareness increases, and the caseload increases. Why? Because when people know what they are looking for, they speak up. *"Human trafficking knows no boundaries, knows no limits, knows no race, knows no religion."*

Everyone, in every state, can use an anonymous tip hotline, 1-888-373-7888, to report a child in a situation that appears predatory.

Take a stand to #EndHumanTrafficking!

CONVENTION: To Be Young, Jewish, Female, and a Leader

by Joyce Backman, Westport Chapter

Three young women, ranging in age from 19 to 34, spoke about their “ah-ha” moment in leadership. This panel discussion was part of a program, supported by Hadassah Foundation, in which Hadassah gives young leaders access to resources, mentorship programs, and grant writing help. The panelist,

One woman from Kentucky told the following story: when she was 11, she received an invitation to a prestigious local dance studio where many of her classmates took dance lessons for cotillions. She noticed that everyone in her grade – except her African American and Asian friends – were invited. She then surmised that an invitation arrived for her only because her last name was not “overtly Jewish.” She started talking about the dance studio in school, and her friends at school became enraged and refused to start dance lessons. She got the ADL involved, which had a human rights commissioner speak to the studio. Soon enough, it revised its ways. It was a very powerful experience for an 11-year-old to have the power to effect change.

Another young woman created a program called “Challahs for Hunger.” She realized that for \$40, she

was able to bake 20 Challahs which she would sell and use the money to buy additional ingredients with enough money left over to give to people who needed help. She started this program in 2008 and it is still going on.

The third woman is at the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute (BALI) in NYC. *"The lessons that I've learned through BALI have had a profound impact on my life, specifically when it comes to having my voice heard. During one of the first days of BALI training, a speaker taught me something that I continue to think about to this day: if you want something, ask for it. This is a pretty simple concept, one that I understood in theory, but not in practice. I find that oftentimes, young women internalize sexism and believe that they mustn't appear weak by asking for help."*

Finally, the “older” young women said that we, as a society, do not help women become leaders when paid parental leave is not offered. **Not** giving women time off holds them back. Women should always support women.



CONVENTION: Empowering Ourselves, Our Daughters

(and our Granddaughters!)

by Sherry Boullt, Berkshire Hills Chapter

Our exciting 98th National Convention certainly was the embodiment of 'empowering.' Naomi Katz was the guest speaker at this breakout session. We had about 40 women who first discussed what being empowered meant to them. The responses were an interesting mix:

- To be competent
- To be aware and acknowledge what you don't know and be comfortable admitting that you don't know something
- To be confident and follow your dreams (the theme of the convention)
- To keep giving after you have been knocked down
- To achieve a higher level

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, to empower is defined "as to promote the self-actualization or influence of" (women). Once we agreed on a 'definition,' we had a lively and honest discussion about trust, truth, and judgment. Why do we judge ourselves so harshly? Why do we (as women) judge each other? Why do we deflect compliments? How do we overcome negative thoughts and patterns?

Women feel they are in competition and are envious of each other. We need to change our thinking and our self-talk. We need to change the culture of judgment that is all around us. We judge 'elderliness.' We live in an ageist society that tells us 'young is beautiful.' We compare ourselves to things that ARE NOT REAL! We judge ourselves and then go out and judge others. The best way to strengthen our bonds is to stop gossiping.

Naomi reminded us that the relationships we have with other women are CRUCIAL! We need to create opportunities to be with other women. We should honor ourselves! We need to create sacred space. We have to find circles where we have TRUST and do not fear being judged. How many relationships do you have that really speak truth? This is what we must strive for; a sense of safety in a circle of women. Recognize the power that you carry! Be more flexible and more tolerant. When you give more – you get more!

BE THE EXAMPLE! FORGIVE YOUR MISTAKES!
Change the path – it is in your hands!

CONVENTION: Hadassah's International Global Outreach

by Sally Kleinman, Westport Chapter

This fascinating break-out explored the role that Hadassah International (HI) has played since its founding 33 years ago. At the time, Past President Bernice Tanenbaum thought "outside the box" and brought together women and men as equal partners in supporting the work of the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO). HI reached outside of the United States and established groups all around the world.

Then, five years ago, another shift took place at HI, with a new focus on untapped markets – Latin evangelicals in the Americas and – surprisingly – Israelis themselves, whether they be non-Jerusalem-based business leaders, new immigrants from France, or the religious *haredi*.

Jorge Diener, Senior Director of International Projects for HI, gave an example of something that took place in South Florida. HI had arranged an inter-faith event at a synagogue and expected that the target

audience of the talk would be the Latin Jews in attendance. Instead (or perhaps in addition), he found the Hispanic evangelical pastors in the group to be incredibly open about supporting Hadassah, HMO, and Israel.

Meir Mark, Director of Hadassah International Israel, spoke of efforts to get Israeli corporate sponsors to support Hadassah Hospital, even though most were based not in Jerusalem but rather in Tel Aviv and the surrounding area. He makes the most of Hadassah's well-know medical brand name (60% of research being done at Israeli hospitals is done at Hadassah) and gives them a one-time opportunity to become attached to a world-wide recognized brand. The efforts have been quite successful!

Both emphasized that these new sources of donations and revenue represent partnership – and that the partnership is more than just one-sided generosity – the partner gets a benefit as well.



CONVENTION: Curriculum Watch

Fact, Fiction, Innuendo or Bias?

by Sheila Horvitz, Eastern CT Chapter

There is a tremendous concern in academic and educational circles of the troubling trend in the publication of textbooks that misrepresent, in numerous ways, Jewish history, culture, and politics.

This break-out session was led by Dr. Sandra Alfonsi, Curriculum Watch Leader, who works with an advisory board of professors, historians, and attorneys to ferret out the offending passages, and to mobilize the Jewish community to lobby publishers and states' Department of Education to revise their texts. She attributed much of the problem to the rise of petro dollars in the publishing industry and the growing movement to delegitimize Israel.

Young minds are shaped by the information in their textbooks. As parents, we put our trust in the schools to select books that do not portray our history and culture inaccurately. To protect the integrity of our Jewish history, we need to check the books for omissions of facts, factual errors, examples of bias, or slants against Israel and Judaism.

Some examples include:

- inclusion of World War II information but with no mention of the Holocaust
- mentioning the Holocaust but with a lower case "h" instead of a capital "H"

- describing Jews as "collateral damage of World War II"
- Holocaust revisionism; misrepresenting the numbers
- defining terrorism in a way that does not include terrorism against Israel
- inaccurate portrayal of the Jews in the Crusades
- not labeling Israel in maps of the Middle East
- misrepresenting the partition of Palestine in 1947 as a partition for a "Palestinian" state and a Jewish state – when the correct word was "Arab" state
- minimizing and/or omitting the contributions of Jews to American history and culture, including:
 - omitting Emma Lazarus' name as the author of the poem at the base of the Statue of Liberty
 - omitting the important contribution of the Jews in the Civil Rights movement and founding of the NAACP
 - omitting the contribution of Jews during Colonial and Revolutionary times

The workshop provided attendees with forms to fill out and send to Hadassah when we find problematic passages in texts. Contact me at ssesq@yahoo.com for more information and for forms.

CONVENTION NATIONAL AWARD: Connecticut Region

by Sally Kleinman, Westport Chapter

Hadassah Connecticut was honored to receive the new Day in the District Advocacy award for holding the highest percentage of meetings with Federal legislators in the past year. In total, members from our Region met with five out of the seven elected Federal officials from Connecticut. As Hadassah Connecticut's president, I accepted the award on the Region's behalf.

We look forward to continuing these conversations in 2017 and hope to meet with the two remaining CT legislators, and the U.S. congressman representing the Berkshire Hills area in Massachusetts. (The BH chapter joined our Region last spring.) We've got our work cut out!





CONVENTION NATIONAL AWARD: Eastern CT Chapter

by Sheila Horvitz, Education & Zionism VP, Eastern CT Chapter

At the Convention, the Eastern CT Chapter was awarded the highest national honor for outstanding Group-Study Programs in Jewish Education, *The Hannah L. Goldberg Award*. On behalf of the chapter, Carol Curland, Chapter President, and I were honored to accept the award.

Henrietta Szold began Hadassah back in 1912 as an outgrowth of a Zionist study group at Temple Emanuel in New York City. Szold mandated that all members be educated in Zionism and Jewish education. The Eastern CT chapter's "Klatches" are a fulfillment of that mandate and the ideal that education in Zionism and Jewish studies is an imperative for Hadassah members living in today's world.

As Chapter Vice-President for Education and Zionism, and also Chair of American Affairs, I conceived and designed a "Coffee Klatch" series of programs that would allow members to grapple with provocative topics in Jewish and Israeli life, history, culture, and current events. The "Coffee Klatches" are open-ended discussions that start with breakfast and encourage an environment of informed but informal discussion where everyone can feel comfortable in sharing insights and opinions.

The "Coffee Klatch" study groups meet at area synagogues or at the Zachs Hillel House at Connecticut College. Rabbis and other special guests offer their insights and perspectives; educational materials are often recommended to attendees in advance of the sessions; quizzes, questions, and surveys of everyone's views provide catalysts to further discussion.

The "Klatches" have tackled some of the most difficult issues facing the Jewish community today, including: a debate on the Iran Nuclear Agreement; Anti-Zionism and the BDS movement on College Campuses; Terrorism and the Lone Wolf actor in Israel and global terrorism; Facts and Myths about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict; Pessimism or Optimism about Peace for Israel and the Middle East; Women's Rights in Israel and "Women of the Wall" Controversy; and the History of Anti-Semitism.

The "Klatches" also include discussions of more philosophical, religious, and historical questions, with such topics as: Do Jews believe in God? – Do You?; The Jewish View of the Soul and Life and Death; Holocaust discussions featuring

member survivors; The Development of Zionism and the Role of Theodore Hertzl; History of the Jews of Eastern Europe; Breakfast with the Emissaries from Israel who spend a season with the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut; Tales from the Old Country – Sharing the History, Stories and Documents of our families' immigration to America.



Sometimes lighter topics of cultural and human interest are featured, including: The What and Whys of Yiddish Humor – Bring a Joke to the Klatch; Jewish and Israeli Trivia Contest; Jews Travel The World; Jewish Themes and Artists in the Arts and Motion Pictures; and Jews and Christmas.

Hadassah launched the Hannah L. Goldberg Study Awards in 1981 to emphasize its commitment to interactive Jewish learning. The award is named in honor of the late Hannah Goldberg, a woman profoundly committed to Jewish education, who served as Hadassah's Executive Director from 1953-1971.

Sally Kleinman, Hadassah Connecticut's Region President, is thrilled that one of her chapters is receiving this award. *"The Eastern Chapter is one of the shining stars of Hadassah Connecticut and its monthly Coffee Klatch is a prime example of why it is*

so successful. Everyone is given a chance to say a few words, to voice his or her opinion, and to listen to each other."

In the words of Chapter President Carol Curland, *"The Coffee Klatches are treasures. Sometimes we laugh, sometimes we cry, but we are always enlightened."*



Carol Curland,
Sheila Horvitz



Young Judaea Year Course

by Max Rubin, grandson of a member of the Berkshire Hills Chapter

Since I've gotten back from Year Course, almost everyone I've run into has asked me the same question. "How was your trip?" they say, but they don't know that they're asking me the wrong question. I'll always respond with the same answer; "Incredible, it was the best year of my life and I'm so happy I went." But I'm not really answering their question. Year Course was so much more than just a *trip*, but I can't really explain that in the two seconds I have someone's attention.

How am I supposed to show them how much my gap year meant to me? I don't have enough time to tell them about all the weekends I spent in Tel Aviv with my friends, how I went skydiving so far north I could see Beirut from the plane, or how happy I was when the kids at the school I volunteered at could count to 20 in English. Some people have asked me more in-depth questions like "What was your favorite trip you went on?" or "What's the biggest difference between America and Israel?" But asking those questions is like asking "What's your favorite song?" or "What's the difference between an apple and an orange?" They are just too big to answer simply.

I have so many great memories from my nine short months in Israel and every single thing I experienced there has changed me in one way or another. When people get me talking for long enough, I'll start telling them stories about how my friends and I spent a weekend at a hostel in Haifa at the base of the Bahai gardens, or about how it wasn't really that scary to live in Jerusalem in October when there was a spree

of terror attacks no more than five miles away from me. I'll tell people about how teaching English at the Jerusalem Elementary school in Bat Yam was a life-changing experience for me even though I probably learned more Hebrew than the kids did English. I could tell them how I've never seen a group of over 100 young adults reduced to tears as fast as I have when the busses finally showed up to take us to the airport at the end of May.

I got lucky. I got to spend a year in the most amazing place on Earth with a group of people whom I now consider family. I got to do anything and everything I ever wanted to do. While all my friends were taking classes, I was going to the beach. While they were going to dining halls, I was going to Super Douche (that's the real name of the supermarket in Bat Yam) to buy food for my apartment of six 19 year-old boys. I think taking a gap year was the best possible decision I could have made because it prepared me for college in ways that high school never did, and Year Course is the best gap year out there.



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Around the Region: Upcoming Events, Summer/Fall 2016

	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
Aug 24	Human Trafficking program, sponsored by Temple B’Nai Abraham	Meriden	Meriden-Wallingford
Aug 26-28	<i>Shop for a Cause</i> with Macy’s, benefiting Hadassah	Meriden	Meriden-Wallingford
Aug 28	Car pool to New Britain Museum of American Art	New Britain	Greater Newtown/ Danbury
Sept 7	High Level Seminar on Global Antisemitism (see page 5)	United Nations, NYC	National Hadassah
Sept 8	Book club meeting <i>The Bridge Ladies</i>	Fairfield	Fairfield
Sept 11	<i>Straddling Two Worlds</i>, Pot luck dairy luncheon with guest speaker Anne R. Zysman-Schulman	Cheshire	Cheshire
Sept 11	<i>The Art of Resilience</i>, Tower brunch with guest speaker Dr. Maria Sirois	Hancock, MA	Berkshire Hills
Sept 13	<i>Concussions and Sports Injuries</i> program	Westport	Westport
Sept 13	Book club meeting, book TBD	Danbury	Greater Newtown/ Danbury
Sept 14	Semi-annual luncheon card party	Stratford	Stratford
Sept 18	Donor appreciation brunch	Fairfield	Fairfield
Sept 20	The Journey of Jewish Women in CT Politics, a panel discussion	West Hartford	Greater Hartford
Sept 22	Annual chapter brunch & card/game party	Southbury	SB/Heritage Village
Sept 25	Metro Area Regions trip to Citi Field: Mets vs. Phillies (see back page)	Queens, NY	CT w/ other Regions in the metro area
Sept 27	<i>Demystifying Investing and Protecting Your Assets</i>	Stamford	Stamford
Oct 13	<i>Be Part of the Story</i> program co-sponsored with Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County	TBD	Fairfield
Oct 16	<i>Wear Pink</i> annual chapter fundraising brunch	Waterford	Eastern CT
Oct 18	Membership Sukkot Event	Westport	Westport
Oct 20	Sukkah Schmooze	West Hartford	Greater Hartford
Oct 23	Power of Purple Walk and Rally	New London	Eastern CT
Oct 26	Book presentation <i>TREYF: My Life as an Unorthodox Outlaw</i>, sponsored by Jewish Federation of New Haven	Madison	Shoreline
Nov 6	<i>Harvesting Stones: Jewish Farmers in Eastern CT</i>, co-Sponsored with Temple Beth Tikvah	Madison	Shoreline
Nov 9	Membership dinner, <i>History and Benefits of Tea</i>	Fairfield	Fairfield
Dec 4	Region-wide annual meeting, Board installation, Chapter Awards, with guest speaker Pennie Sessler Branden	Shelton	CT Region



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Can you help with
E-Blasts?

Looking for a volunteer to
bring our region further into
the digital world.

Requires only 15-30 minutes
each week, and we will train.

Please contact Joyce at
joyceb@optonline.net

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Sunday, September 25 ~ 1:10 PM

New York Mets vs Philadelphia Phillies

Final Home Game of the 2016 Season for the Mets

The tri-state Metro Area Regions are heading to Queens for Hadassah Day at Citi Field. **And best of all – if we sell 500 tickets, National President Ellen Hershkin will throw out the first pitch!** But, Ellen only gets to throw out the first pitch IF we sell 500 tickets – so now it’s YOUR turn to PITCH in!!



Exciting Extras:

- 2017 Magnetic Schedule – All Fans
- Mr. Met Dash – Kids 12 and under

Tickets:

- Promenade Reserved – Section 528 – \$36 (\$12*)
 - ~~Bud Landing – Section 337 – \$54 (\$9*)~~ SOLD OUT!
- (* tax deductible portion of ticket price)

For Tickets Go To:

- hadassah.org/events/Mets

Seats will be assigned within the Designated Sections on a “First-Pay, First-Seated” basis. Payment date for tickets will be used to determine seat assignments. Tickets will be mailed to the address located on the registration/payment form no less than 30 days prior to the game.

Visit our website at: www.hadassah.org/regions/connecticut