



HADASSAH
the power of women who **DO**™

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Unit President Message August 2017

Dear Hadassah Friends,

First off, I'd like to start out by giving a big Thank You to my Hadassah Sisters for their love and support during this difficult time of my life. The Meal you sent was delicious!

The Hadassah year is more than half gone and our chapter has much to be proud of. As of June 2017, we have 2 new annual members and new 5 life members so far in 2017, totaling 697 Hadassah members in our Tampa Ameet Chapter. In addition, our fundraising efforts as of June, 2017 we have raised in \$19,406 for Hadassah. Although we cannot quantify Jewish/Zionist education in the same way, we can look back on some wonderful programs, such as the Game Day With the Mavens, the seminar with Morris Wolf, and his book "Whatever Happened to Raoul Wallenburg?" along with many other events. I'm so proud of our hard working board members because they have inspired all of you to achieve these numbers. And the year is only half over! We can't rest now, when our goals are closer than ever.

National Hadassah's Business Meeting & Symposium in St Louis concluded only a week ago. Jane Strom attended, as an organizer of this event:

Over 220 women attended the National Business Meeting & Symposium in St. Louis July 18-19. The theme was MOtivate and MObilize in St Louis, MO. On hand were delegates from every Region in the country and speakers both local and from New York and Israel.

During the business portion, attendees voted for Hadassah Policies on combating Anti-Semitism and Women's Health Equity, as well as the election of a new National Treasurer and other new national officers. A constitutional amendment was approved to allow Past National Presidents to both hold a portfolio and be full members of the National Board.

During the HMO session, delegates were treated to the emotional story of Iliana and Adee Weismark. If not for her expert care at Ein Kerem, she and her first baby would have died, instead of thrived. Now, thank G-d, the Weismarks have three beautiful children. Not a dry eye!

The next National Meeting will occur in conjunction with a Women's Health Summit in Washington, D.C. May 16-18, 2018. I urge you to plan to attend.

During the HMO (Hadassah Medical Organization) session, the delegates were treated to a spellbinding story told by Ilanna Weismark. Ilana and Adee met and married in Jerusalem. Her pregnancy was uneventful. After they arrived at Hadassah Ein Kerem, there were bleeding complications and Ilana was induced. Their infant daughter was crowning, but midwife Jamila saw signs of an emergency when Ilana fainted. Some of her amniotic fluid had leaked into her bloodstream and the embolism had gone to her lungs. She ceased breathing and began to bleed from every orifice. Kinneret was delivered, but with an

Apgar score of 0 out of 10. At 8 lbs 11 oz. Kinneret was quickly revived and appeared fine, but Ilana was worse. For 4 ½ minutes, she was clinically dead.

Doctors worked on Ilana for 7 hours and put her into a medically induced coma. After 48 hours, Ilana's vitals climbed. But, the staff wondered, would her health survive? With no recollection of being pregnant, Ilana said, "I was able to speak in French to my parents, in English to Adee, and yell at the nurses in Hebrew!" In a few more days, Ilana was able to nurse Kinneret and return home. Owing to the skill of her labor and delivery team, Ilana's womb was saved and she would go on to two more successful pregnancies.

How big a miracle was Ilana Weismark's survival? 2.5 in 100,000 women suffer an amniotic embolism. 65% of infants die in the womb. 80% of mothers do not survive.

"I am the poster child for Ein Kerem's Labor and Delivery Department. If it weren't for Ein Kerem and their staff, I wouldn't be here." High risk pregnancies are the ultimate test of knowledge and skill. In the coming months you will hear about the launch of a campaign to renovate the "round building" at Ein Kerem, which will house high risk pregnancy services. Remember Ilana, Adee and Kinneret's miracle story and tell your friends how important it is to support the hospital that made their lives possible.

I know I'll see you at our meeting in September. You make miracles happen.

Tampa Ameet Chapter's Upcoming Events

- ✚ Bingo at Hamburger Mary's on August 14, 2017
- ✚ An evening of Strawberries and Champagne at Fancy Nails in Tampa, FL on August 22, 2017.

B'Shalom,
Etty Segal
Ameet, Chapter President

HADASSAH

The Women's Zionist Organization of America

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Hadassah.org