

**HADASSAH**



## **December Tampa Ameet Hadassah Happenings**

### **FROM THE BOARD**

Here we are in the month of December. For many, it signifies the long run-up to Chanukah, which begins this year on December 24th. For others, it's the nagging feeling, as you look outside, that daylight hours are getting shorter and shorter until the 21st and the first day of winter. How much can be accomplished in a day? Please read the Hadassah story further down the page.

Tampa Ameet Hadassah isn't slowing down just because 2016 is ending. On Thursday, December 1, Jane Strom will be honored as our Woman of Distinction at 7 PM at Kol Ami. I hope you'll join us to shop accessories at Charming Charlie's in the Westshore Mall or The Plaza at Citrus Park on Sunday, December 4, where 10% of your purchase will be donated to Hadassah. Mah Jong with the Mavens is coming on December 7, promising an evening of fun and mah jong, plus snacks and dinner. Our new President Ety Segal will be installed on Sunday, December 11 at the Florida Central Region Meeting here in Tampa. To round out December, we'll be celebrating Chanukah at a latke pot luck party at Elaine Vidars' home on Tuesday, December 27. Please scroll down for more details of these events.

Did you miss the Day in the District in September when a delegation from our chapter visited Rep. Gus Bilirakis' office? Well, Luise Burman will be planning another opportunity with a different member of Congress or the Senate. If you'd like to participate, please contact Luise at [813-982-1480](tel:813-982-1480).

2017 is fast approaching with 365 days full of possibilities.

How long is a day? Just for a moment, I'd like you to picture the first day in the life of a tiny Israeli, born at a hospital in Jerusalem. His sharp-eyed nurse notices that the newborn boy is blue (cyanotic in "medical speak") due to lack of oxygen to the skin. The doctor on duty quickly remarks that there must be something seriously wrong with his heart. Apparently this little boy's mother's pre-natal ultrasounds, if she had them, did not spot a congenital (during gestation and at birth) heart malformation. Since she has not given birth at a major medical center, with a team of cardiologists and cardiac surgeons close by to deal with his condition, he is urgently transferred to Hadassah, Ein Kerem. There, senior pediatric cardiologist Dr. Zeev Perles recognizes an even greater problem in the newborn.

In addition to transposition of the main arteries which caused his cyanosis, the little boy has a very rare malformation of the aorta, the large artery that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body. As a fetus's aorta develops, it is formed from one of several curved pieces of tissue called arches. Some of the remaining arches are broken down by the body, while others form into arteries. In our little boy, one of the arteries, which was supposed to break down early, had not. And this formed a vascular ring which is encircling and pressing down on his windpipe and esophagus. Left untreated, a vascular ring would cause severe breathing and swallowing difficulties. Prof. Eldad Erez, head of pediatric cardiac surgery, and his team go to work immediately. They manage to repair these heart anomalies and a new Israeli boy will soon be sent home to recuperate in excellent condition. How long is a day? To this infant boy's mother, his first day must have seemed quite long indeed. At Hadassah, it's long enough to perform miracles.

For Hadassah, December is the last month in 2016 for you and all our other generous supporters to provide our organization with the much needed funds to do what Hadassah does best - Zionism, Health and Medicine, and Advocacy. Thus, it's our last opportunity to reach out to you and thank you for what you have done so far in this year of 2016 and to ask yourself if you can possibly help just a bit more for Tampa Ameet to reach its 2016 fundraising goal of \$90,000. Think of that little Israeli newborn son who owes all the other days of his life to Hadassah and to YOU.

B'Shalom,

Your Tampa Ameet Chapter Board

If you have reached the age of 70 ½ you should be able to begin taking advantage of the Federal Government's tax rule to apply your "required minimum distribution" directly to Hadassah as a donation. Ask your tax advisor or accountant for more information on how this may help you while helping Hadassah.

### **Share Your Love for Hadassah**

Enroll or give the perfect holiday gift of Life Membership for just \$212 before December 31. Members receive a lifetime of Hadassah Magazine, listing in the Professional Business Directory, and access to National and local programs that support the life-saving work of Hadassah. Life Membership goes up to \$250 on January 1.

### **PROPOSED SLATE FOR 2017 BOARD**

In accordance with our current By-Laws, the Nominating Committee filled only the offices contained therein. All of the other Activity Chairpeople will be officially appointed by President Segal. The Nominating Committee consisted of Luise Burman, Michele Norris, Jane Strom and Elaine Vidars. Etty was elected by the chapter board at its last meeting "to fill the open position of President" so that she can be duly installed on December 11 during the Region Meeting. An election will be held on the slate below at our Chanukah Meeting, December 27, 2016. The following women are nominated to fill the following offices:

President	Etty Segal
Org. V.P.	Open
VP Education	Luise Burman
V.P. Fund Raising	Michele Norris
VP Membership	Elaine Vidars
V.P. Programming	Jane Strom
V.P. Records Administration	Fanny Reiss
Treasurer	Gail Meyers
Recording Secretary	Andrea Holper
Corresponding Secretary	Anita Greenberg