

Dear Hadassah Friends,

As your continuing Ameet Chapter President, I am honored to represent our chapter in the Florida Central Region. Because the National Assembly will meet this month in Los Angeles, I thought you'd like to know how many women are involved on the national level. Our Florida Central Region, is one of 33 regions and Lyn Pomerantz from the Jacksonville Chapter was the duly elected president at the regional conference. The region Presidents, plus 182 other women, appointed by the National President, form the Portfolio Council. They perform jobs vital to the organization, such as Development, Membership and PRAZE (Program-Advocacy-Zionism-Education). They are the ones who create programs for our chapter to use and disseminate information to everyone around the country. In addition, there are 29 members of the elected National Board. These women consider the big picture, debate and vote on finance and policy, forming a smaller, nimbler Executive Committee are the 6 National Vice-Presidents, the six past National Presidents and the current National Officers- National President, Ellen Hershkin, National Treasurer Roni Schwartz, National Secretary Gail Hammerman and National Portfolio Officer Roz Rosen. The Executive Committee meets more often, usually at our National Headquarters in New York City. Former members of the National Board form the Honorary Council, women who may be called upon for their collective wisdom. Altogether, these women meet twice a year as the National Assembly.

I wanted to impress upon you, my Hadassah friends, that virtually everyone of these women once sat where you are sitting. Hadassah experience and training enabled them to shoulder the awesome responsibilities of running a multi-national million-dollar organization. So, in 2018, remember how powerful you can be!

January 27th is the International Holocaust Day. On that cold January day in 1945, "Soviet Troops ended the terror at Auschwitz, the Nazi's latest camp complex, where more than one million people were murdered between 1940 and 1945. The soldiers encountered hundreds of suffering prisoners and evidence of genocide, including warehouses full of victims' belongings." I cannot tell you that day was the end of the persecution of the Jewish people in

the world. I would remind you though, that we women of Hadassah promised never to forget. We in Hadassah are determined to build a strong Israel, a place for all who wish to make their home there and all who wish to live in dignity around the world. Hadassah is a NGO (Non-Governmental-Organization), sitting in on United Nations activities and making our voice heard in the halls of national and international deliberative bodies. I hope that makes you as proud of Hadassah as it does me. That's Hadassah – the Power of Women Who Do.

In Tampa we commemorate the International Day earlier, on January 21th. Please contact Vincent Genovese by January 13 at (813) 817-5923 or by email at vgenovese@idcfl.org if you plan to attend the International Holocaust Memorial.

We observe Doctor Martin Luther King's birthday on Monday, January 15 this year. As many old photos attest, Jewish leaders and advocates were marching at his side through the difficult days of the civil rights struggle. Why am I reminding you about this? It is because Hadassah in 2018 is still working on Advocacy. We are still making our voices heard by: supporting a woman's right to choose, fighting against domestic abuse and human trafficking, urging equity in women's medical research and accessing preventive health care and affordable child care. This year, let's participate in a Day in the District or a Day in a Tallahassee activity. I urge you to plan to attend Hadassah's Women's Health and Advocacy Conference in Washington, D. C., May 15-17, 2017. Registration begins this month. So, look for information shortly. There will be an important panel at the National Press Club, an update from the Israeli Ambassador and meetings with our legislators on the Hill. A joyful HMO Gala is planned with amazing entertainment. We will begin "Celebration 2018" for Israel's 70th birthday. Advocacy is in our DNA, so let's show it off. We have the power to make changes in our world. Let's use it!

Some Hadassah stories develop over several years. I'm going to tell you a story that's taken 15 years already. Sharon Paz, a law student intern, took "the morning-after" pill and soon began to have extreme pain and swelling in her breasts. It seemed the hormones in the pills stimulated the cancer already brewing within her. Luckily for her, she came under the care of Dr. Tamar

Peretz at Hadassah's Moshe Sharret Institute of Oncology. A carrier of the BRACA 1 gene with increased risk of breast and ovarian cancer, Sharon had a double mastectomy, but Dr. Peretz had preserved her uterus. Happily, she met and married her wonderful husband Yaron. Then, Sharon feared she felt the symptoms of ovarian cancer, but it turned out she was pregnant. In the next three years the couple has three healthy children. When she was 40, just before surgery to remove her ovaries, one egg was harvested and fertilized with Yaron's sperm. The chances of success were remote, but due to her personalized treatment at Hadassah they had a miracle baby when Sharon was 42. Why is Sharon Paz so grateful to you and Hadassah? It's because she enjoys a successful law career, a lovely husband and four wonderful children. Please share this story with your friends and family to show them what your efforts and donations can accomplish. You have the power to heal the world one person at a time.

I hope to see you at the following meetings:

Hadassah Associates Award Dinner

**January 11, 2018 – 7 P.M. – Holiday Inn, Westshore,
Royal Palm Banquet Room
Entrance on Cyprus Street
Covered Parking
700 North Westshore Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33609
Couvert \$49**

Please call Michel Norris at (813) 352-8765

Hadassah Lunch at Memorial Hospital

January 16, 2018 11:00 Am- 2 P.M

**Tampa Memorial Hospital
2901 Swann Avenue**

Tampa, FL 33609

Please contact Jane Strom at (813) 334-6812

Email: jstrom@hadassah.org

I wish you a healthy, happy and successful 20chai (Hebrew for 2018!)

B'Shalom,

Etty Segal, President of the Tampa Ameet Chapter

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