

Board Message November 2016

Dear Hadassah Friends,

Well, a month of Jewish holidays has ended with Simchat Torah. We can all put away our recipe books and remove the extra leaf from the dining room table, unless you are the designated hostess for Thanksgiving! Looking forward, Tampa Ameet Hadassah has some wonderful events planned. Our exclusive shopping day at Charming Charlie's on Friday, the 27th, for example. And in November, we hope to get a huge turn out to honor local members who are veterans of the IDF and U.S. Army. You will be moved by their stories of their lives in the military. In addition, you will be delighted by the musical entertainment Joyce Hartmann Karpay has arranged, including the voices of Cantors Andres Kornworcel, Deborah Cannizzaro, Beth Schlossberg, and Joy Katzen Guthrie, plus some young singers.

We are so grateful for our colleagues on the board who have worked so diligently to make our chapter successful in 2016. When you see them at the meeting on November 15, give them a hug!

When people ask us, "What is Hadassah?" we like to tell them that we are the women who do and that we do things in three major areas: Advocacy, Zionism, and Healthcare/Research. This November, you will have an opportunity to "Do" in all three areas.

Advocacy: Tuesday, November 8, you have the responsibility to vote in our National Elections. Whether you vote by mail, vote early, or vote on Election Day, we urge you to consider the candidates in the light of Jewish values. Will they protect women and girls from human trafficking? Will they care about safeguarding a woman's access to reproductive healthcare? Will they support gender equity in medical research? Will they support a strong Israel and a peaceful world? Just as no job in Hadassah is insignificant, so no office in public life is unworthy of the best office holder. You have the power to use the internet to investigate the positions of all the candidates on your ballot, so "Do It."

Zionism: Have you been yearning to visit Israel in 5777? We urge you to go to Hadassah.org/missions or call 800-237-1517 to learn about Hadassah Missions to Israel. For example, there's a geopolitical tour in March, a mission to Budapest, Prague and Israel in May, an Associates Mission in October with emphasis on Jerusalem and the South (women are more than welcome, too), or join a *Hadassah Florida Mission* in October titled "Seeing is Believing." Oy, we're so excited, maybe we'll go with you and we can "Do It" together.

Healthcare/Research: How about this for Tikkun Olam, Healing the World... In September, candidates from 19 countries received their International Master of Public Health (IMPH) degrees at a graduation ceremony at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine. With this newest class of graduates, 845 alumni from 96 countries have been educated to spearhead public health advances in their homelands. Ambassador Gil Haskel, head of Mashav, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, praised Hadassah and the Hebrew University for their outstanding work and long-term commitment to creating leaders who make a real impact in the world. Dealing with the scourges of Ebola and Zika will be the concern of these newest IMPH graduates.

Hadassah is quite literally healing the world. And when you decide to support Hadassah, you make a commitment to “Do It,” too.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we should think of it as the most American of holidays. It’s not just the turkey dinner with all the fixings. It’s not just the gathering together of the family, if you’re lucky enough to do that. It’s the fact that regardless of your color, your religion, or your family’s country of origin, you are welcome to give thanks for all the blessings you enjoy.

Looking forward to a wonderful Thanksgiving, we give thanks to all of our Board members and look forward to the new 2017 Board.

All the best,

The Board of Tampa Ameet Hadassah