



## *Shalom Friends,*

Sometimes, I wish I had roller skates attached to my feet because I'm always on the go!

January went by in a flash! I had the pleasure and honor of representing each of you at the Hadassah National Assembly in West Palm Beach, FL, last month and I was in Austin for Day With the State, Lake Charles with my husband for my birthday, and San Antonio for a cousin's 90th birthday. While in San Antonio, I had a chance to catch up with so many Hadassah friends.

At our meetings in Florida, we heard a wonderful report from Dr. Zeev Rotstein, Director General of Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO). Our hospitals at Mt. Scopus and at Ein Kerem are filled to capacity, so the need to fund the renovation of our original hospital, the "Round Building" at Ein Kerem, is urgent! When the renovation is completed, we will have an additional 200 beds to serve the ever-growing population of Jerusalem and all of Israel - as well as all the patients who come to Hadassah from around the world.

Region Presidents have ongoing training at every National meeting. We learn about everything from leadership skills to working with volunteers to our latest research on different diseases to fundraising. We are scheduled from early in the morning until late at night! But best of all, we hear amazing stories from our hospitals, we are inspired by our colleagues' successes, we make lifelong friends, and we have fun! We leave exhausted but reinvigorated.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you and Hadassah everywhere I go.

Shabbat shalom,

*Linda*

## **Celebrate Hadassah Shabbat March 15 - 16, 2019**



Hadassah was founded by Henrietta Szold on Purim, 1912. In the Purim story, Queen Esther saved the Jewish people from being killed. She was a role model for being a strong Jewish woman so it was perfect to name our organization after her - Hadassah.

Hadassah regions, chapters and groups all over the U.S. will remember Queen Esther and will celebrate Hadassah Shabbat on Purim Zachor (Sabbath of Remembrance), the Shabbat immediately preceding Purim. Shabbat Zachor begins at sundown on Friday, March 15, and ends at sundown on Saturday, March 16, 2019.

We encourage you to celebrate at your synagogue. There are many ways you can do that. Ask your rabbi to speak about Hadassah from the pulpit. Ask if you or a local Hadassah leader can speak about Hadassah from the pulpit. Ask if your members could participate in the service by leading prayers or songs or reciting blessings at a Shabbat or Havdallah service. Ask the rabbi to ask all Hadassah members to stand. Provide the refreshments for that Shabbat - or a cake that says Happy 107th Birthday, Hadassah!

For more suggestions how you can celebrate Hadassah Shabbat, contact Linda Pravda, GSW Region Programming Chair, at [lindapravda@gmail.com](mailto:lindapravda@gmail.com).

# JOIN HADASSAH at the AIPAC Policy Conference

## Hadassah Forum: Using the Law to Combat Anti-Semitism



Sunday, March 24, 9:00 pm at The Washington Convention Center  
featuring **Alyza D. Lewin**

President and General Counsel of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law

Come and enjoy an opportunity to mix and mingle with fellow Hadassah members: Light desserts will be served.

Anti-Semitism and efforts to boycott Israel are on the rise. Legal tools provide a mechanism to address this growing scourge. Ms. Lewin will discuss how anti-Zionism is an attack on Jewish identity and how to recognize when criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic.

If you will be present at the AIPAC Policy Conference and would like to attend the reception, please RSVP to Shira Golden at [sgolden@hadassah.org](mailto:sgolden@hadassah.org) with your name, email and snail mail address.

**Alyza D. Lewin** serves as President and General Counsel of the Louis D. Brandeis Center. She is also a co-founder and partner at Lewin & Lewin, LLP, where she specializes in litigation, mediation, and government relations. She received her B.A. from Princeton University and her J.D. from New York University School of Law.

## 360° of Healing - Renovating the Round Building

Hadassah is the founder of Israel's modern health-care system and has been tireless in maintaining the highest standards for more than 100 years. Since 1960, the population of Jerusalem has tripled, and the demands on the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) and Hadassah Hospital at the Ein Kerem campus have grown exponentially. Hadassah must respond.

We must completely reimagine the iconic Round Building, the hospital's original inpatient center at Ein Kerem. With this renovation and expansion, the new Round Building will be an important healing center for Israel, significantly advancing the services in its outpatient surgery, maternity, oncology, and dermatology departments.



We are adding 200 new beds which will greatly increase the number of patients HMO serves. We are renovating 17 operating rooms with state-of-the-art equipment that will improve efficiency and reduce waiting times for surgery. The new construction will strengthen the building and protect the hospital from earthquakes. We will also build safe rooms on each floor that will protect patients from conventional, biological, or chemical attacks.

We need your help to complete this project. You may make a donation at [www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org) or mail your check, payable to Hadassah, to our region office at 24 Braeswood Square, Houston, TX 77096. Your chapter and group will receive credit towards their HMO goals.

Consider becoming an Annual Donor and make a yearly commitment to Hadassah. Chai Society begins with a minimum annual commitment of \$180 (50¢ a day); Silver Chai Society begins with a minimum yearly gift of \$360 (\$1.00 a day); Keeper level begins with a gift of a minimum \$1,000 a year (\$83.33 a month) and Golden Keeper begins with a minimum annual \$5,000 gift. Your pledge can be paid by check or can be charged at regular intervals which you choose.

For more information, please contact the GSW Region Fundraising Chair Karen Kessler at [karen19kessler@gmail.com](mailto:karen19kessler@gmail.com) or our office at 713-661-1022.



### **Hadassah Members Advocated for Support of Israel at the State Capitol**

Dozens of Hadassah members were among the 160 Jewish people who went to Austin on January 30, 2019 to ask - and thank - state legislators for their support of Israel. The statewide Day With the State was coordinated by all the Jewish Federations in Texas, and Hadassah Greater Southwest Region was a co-sponsor of the day.

Hadassah was well represented with members from Austin, Georgetown, San Antonio, Houston, Dallas, and Ft. Worth. Participants heard from several legislators including Representative Phil King who sponsored Texas's anti BDS bill.

Kol hakavod (all the honor) to GSW Region Advocacy Chair Debby Rice who worked with the Dallas Jewish Federation and the GSW Region Advocacy team (Karen Kessler, Marion Bernstein, Susie Avnery, Mary Ann Lish, Debbie Roberson, and Lenora Hausman) to ensure that Hadassah was very present that day!

---

Remember your friends and family by making a donation to Hadassah in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. Call the region office at 713-661-1022 and we will send out a card, letter or beautiful Hadassah certificate.