



# Houston Chapter of Hadassah

# NEWS & VIEWS

Tevet/Shevat 5776

January, 2016

## “WOMEN OF COURAGE” NAMES HONOREE LINDA FREEDMAN BLOCK



Linda Freedman  
Block

Co Chairs Sharon Brier and Randee Kaplan announce that the Woman of Courage Luncheon, to be held on Sunday, April 10 will honor Linda Freedman Block and host best selling author and humorist, Jill Conner Browne.

The theme of the event, “The Power of Women Who Do” perfectly fits Linda who is being honored for her commitment to Hadassah and to Jill who knows firsthand surviving hardships of life with the help of her “sisterly” women friends. Jill's first best seller was *Sweet Potato Queens*.

Guests are encouraged to buy a table and wear tiaras or crowns reflecting their interest. The lunch, held at the Westin Galleria will feature a Silent Auction chaired by Debbie Gersh. Debbie is accepting donations of trips, jewelry, gift items and gift cards. Also, volunteers are needed to help with planning and the day of the event. Please call the Hadassah office 713 661-1022 for tickets, sponsorships, volunteering or to make a donation.

**HOUSTON CHAPTER  
INVITES YOU TO THE  
INSTALLATION OF  
THE 2016 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10  
4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM  
AT BENNETT & ROBIN  
GREENSPAN'S HOME  
5207 BRAEBURN**

**SARAH GISH OF GISH CREATIVE:  
TEN WAYS TO IGNITE YOUR LIFE**

**LIGHT DINNER RECEPTION  
MARTINE LEVINE, CATERING  
COUVERT \$18**



## GROUP MEETINGS

**Avital** - Wed., Jan. 13 at 12:30 pm at Oxford Condominium Party Room, 5150 Hidalgo (Next to Nordstrom. Installation by Lena Malacoff. RSVP to Gladys, [howglad13@aol.com](mailto:howglad13@aol.com).

**Chagall** - For info email [Hadassamarcchagall@gmail.com](mailto:Hadassamarcchagall@gmail.com).

**Chai** - For info call Judi Payne, 281-353-1303.

**Anne Frank** - Thurs. Jan. 14 at 10:30 am at Arcodora Restorante Italiano, 5000 Westheimer Rd #120. Annual Installation of officers with speaker Ann Thompson, Houston's Performing Arts Advocate, "The Jewish Touch in Opera." RSVP to [lbgreen360@gmail.com](mailto:lbgreen360@gmail.com). Your check made to Hadassah for \$32 and sent to Lisa Green, 126 Paul Revere Dr, Houston, 77024 by January 8 is your reservation.

**Kinneret Book Club** - Wed., Jan. 13 at 7:30 pm at Helene Gersch's, 14911 Beachurst Dr. *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. RSVP to Helene, [hpgersch@gmail.com](mailto:hpgersch@gmail.com).

**Lazarus** - For info call Phyllis Rozen 361-548-1385.

**Leff** - For info call Hope Malowitz, 713-663-6688.

**Ma-Arav** - For info call Sue Zerlin, 713-784-5573.

**Machar** - For info email Sandye Fertman, [sanditaf@gmail.com](mailto:sanditaf@gmail.com).

**Mazal** - For info call Martha Raskind, 281-341-8381.

**Pearl** - For info call Bonnie Winograd, 713-668-5789.

**Szold** - Wed., Jan. 13 at 11:00 at Linda Levine's, 8519 Braesmeadow. The speaker will be Jeff Friedman. Dairy lunch will be served. RSVP to Linda, 832-516-7333.

*Group meetings cont. on page 3.*

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



*Sandra Smith*

Our founder Henrietta Szold said, "There is no ending that is not a beginning." As our Hadassah city and group boards transition from one year to the next, we realize the truth of this statement. Thanks to the work of those who came before us, Houston Hadassah has thrived and grown. A new group in the Woodlands area, Aviv, formed and many new members were "gifted" with an annual membership in Hadassah. Thanks to Linda Block's Mazel Tov Mommy and Mazel Tov Bubbie campaign, many children were given life membership in Hadassah. The past year saw us raise money to support Hadassah projects, through appeals, a fabulous Chai Event, and an inspiring Big Gifts event. We heard about what was happening in Israel and our Hadassah Medical Organization from Barbara Sofer and Michael Weiss and learned about Curriculum Watch from Sandra Alonsi. Carol Gaines and her team informed women about breast health. We made sandwiches for SEARCH, gave books, toiletries and clothing to the needy and supported community projects across town. Many of us attended Hadassah trainings and board meetings in Phoenix, Philadelphia, and around Texas. After a Greater Southwest Region board meeting in Austin, we stayed in town to visit with our state representatives and legislators at "Date with the State." And under Lena Malacoff's calm leadership, we renovated our office after the Memorial Day flood which so impacted Houston. And that's just a small part of what Houston Hadassah accomplished.

I am honored to serve as Houston Hadassah's next president and resolve, with the help of our dedicated Houston and group boards, to continue the work begun. On January 30 and 31 Hadassah members from the Greater Southwest Region will be here for leadership training and a regional board meeting. Plans are already underway for our Women of Courage Event honoring Linda Freedman Block which will be April 10 at the Westin Galleria. And the Houston executive board and group presidents are meeting in January to plan the 2016 year.

National's goals for 2016 include:

- Connecting members and the public to Zionism and Israel through education, and advocacy
- Supporting the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel as we complete the furnishing of the Tower, ORs and medical suites
- Continuing medical advancements with an emphasis on using stem-cell research in the areas of ALS, MS, macular degeneration and diabetes and fatty liver disease. Want to know more about stem cell research being done at our HMO? Go to [myHadassah.com](http://myHadassah.com), click on Health and Medicine, then click on Advancing Health and Medicine. This will allow you to watch Prof. Tamir Ben-Hur, HMO's world renowned neurologist and stem cell research specialist at a 2014

*President's Column continued on page 5*

### February News and Views Deadline: January 15, 2016

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**Send all information to :  
Glenda Danburg Waldman  
E-mail: [irglenda@aol.com](mailto:irglenda@aol.com)**

### Group meetings continued...

**Wise** - For info call Roz Saron, 713-961-5322.

**Weizmann** - For info call Joann Greenbaum, 713-721-9717.



Hadassah office manager, Robin Dorfman needs volunteers to cover the office and answer the phone when she is out of the office.

Her regular volunteers are wonderful and there is not an on-going job that she would need covered every week at a certain time. She would need volunteers just for when she is away. If you can help with this occasional job, please let Robin know.

**BE A VOLUNTEER!  
CALL THE HADASSAH  
OFFICE, 713-661-1022.**

### CHARITABLE SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. 40 Wall Street, NY, NY 10005. Telephone number 212-355-7900. A copy of Hadassah's latest Financial Report is available by writing to the Hadassah Finance Dept., 40 Wall Street, NY, NY 10005. Registration does not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, approval or sanction by any state/county.

## GIVE THE GIFT OF HADASSAH MEMBERSHIP

A Hadassah Membership links over 4700 Houston women, children and men supporting the extraordinary work that Hadassah does. With 15 groups throughout the Houston area, members are able to make friends with people in their area of town with similar goals. Hadassah members have many opportunities to broaden their education and leadership skills through programming, leadership training, book clubs, and other special interest groups. Hadassah supports a close relationship between the USA and Israel and promotes peace in the Middle East through our medical services. Hadassah is known for the medical and educational projects in Israel, such as the construction of the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower at the Hadassah Hospital. In Houston, Hadassah supports a Breast Health Awareness Program, the Jewish National Fund, Meals on Wheels, Dress for Success and the JCC Book Fair and other outstanding projects.

"Make an Impact" and continue the work Hadassah has been doing for over 100 years. To give a Life Membership, send a check to Hadassah for \$212 to Houston Hadassah, 4654 Beechnut, Houston, 77096. You can also join online @ [www.hadassah.org/life](http://www.hadassah.org/life).

**Welcome** - Hadassah welcomes these new members and transfers:

**Anne Frank** – Susan Aronstein, Avril Danziger, Marilyn Evans, Barbara Gelman, Marjo Leussink, Gail Levinson, Beth Nock, Susan Smith, Rochelle Stein, Sharon Whitlock

**Aviv** – Leah Blecher, Kay Brouse, Lisa Fittapaldi, Susan Goldsmith, Debbie Haseltine, Elizabeth Leass, Flo Lobo, Nancy Mayer, Michelle Mondry, Rona Platt, Tania Shulkin, Joanie Spalter, Gabriele Tenna, Castine Theriot, Jenessa Welch, Effie Yakir

**Henrietta Szold** – Shelia Levine

**Houston Group** – Rachel Albee, Annette Lamoreaux, Jeni Rosen, P'nina Topham

**Kinneret** – Sheila Brass, April Buchanan, Kristi Doss, Mary Kate Flanagan, Shelley Kahle, Lesley Laroe, Jennifer Nixon, Lilli Sigel

**Emma Lazarus** – Tate Abrams, Genevieve Bovillet, Yaffa Cohen, Dylan Dobbs, Cindie Lavenda, Jan Levine, Ellie Stanton, Angie Staller, Ariana Staller, Olivia Staller, Penelope Staller

**Ma'arav** – Fran Barton, Jill Beech

**Machar** – Mariana Davidescu, Paula Fogelman, Ellie Mae Grossman, Mary Jimenez, Diana Katz, Tanya Radoff, Melissa Russo, Jessica Strauss

**Marc Chagall** – Holly Davies, Lynae Novominsky

Congratulations to these groups for reaching 100% of their membership goal for 2015: Houston At-Large, Anne Frank, Kinneret, Machar. And a big congratulations to the new group in The Woodlands, Aviv.

**Project Connect Locally** – If you are a member of Hadassah living in Houston but affiliated with a chapter or group elsewhere, Hadassah would like to encourage you to transfer your membership to one of the 15 Houston groups. You can connect locally and enjoy interesting programs, exciting activities, or just meet other smart, savvy individuals who share similar values and interests.

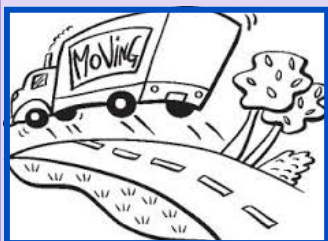
For information about Houston's groups, contact Membership Vice-President Hilary Kamin, [hilaryk@hcrj.org](mailto:hilaryk@hcrj.org).



SCENE AT ...



**DID YOU MOVE AFTER THE MEMORIAL DAY FLOOD?**



If you did, please call us at 713-661-1022, with your new information. If you know anyone else who flooded, please ask them to notify Hadassah as well.

*ANNE FRANK GROUP  
(ABOVE RIGHT AND LEFT)*

*BE A "SCENE AT" STAR, SEND YOUR  
PHOTOS TO THE EDITOR AT  
[IRGLENDAA@AOL.COM](mailto:IRGLENDAA@AOL.COM)*

**DR. SANDRA ALFONSI UPDATES HOUSTON CHAPTER ON CURRICULUM WATCH**

Dr. Sandra Alfonsi, member of Hadassah's National Board, spoke at the Houston Chapter office about her work with Hadassah's Curriculum Watch of which she is Chair. Dr. Alfonsi and her advisory board review U.S. high school social studies textbooks for revisionism, anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. Examples of revisionism include the mischaracterization of the State of Israel and its formation; exclusion of any reference to the contribution of American Jews such as Hyman Solomon's role in funding the American revolutionary war; Emma Lazarus's poem that graces the base of the Statue of Liberty; David Dubinsky's role in the women's labor union movement; and the Jewish role in the Civil Rights Movement among other topics.



*Dr. Sandra Alfonsi*

Dr. Alfonsi reported that her work on revisionism has changed considerably over the years. Initially she dealt with Holocaust revisionism in U.S. social studies textbooks. For example, the murder of six million Jews has been described as collateral damage of World War II; in other words they were at the wrong place at the wrong time. Of late, her work has focused on how textbook publishers address and characterize terrorism and the State of Israel. Textbook authors have also introduced the concept of Islamic Holocaust revisionism. For instance some social studies textbooks will state the proposition that if there was no Holocaust there would be no state of Israel and if there was no state of Israel, then there would be no terrorism. Some textbooks fail to characterize 9/11 as a series of terrorist events. And finally, some textbooks have introduced the idea that the United States was founded on Judeo-Christian-Islamic traditions. Dr. Alfonsi will have a return engagement in the spring to speak at the Houston Holocaust Museum.



**CELEBRATE  
MONDAY,  
JANUARY 25**



**CELEBRATE  
MLK DAY  
MONDAY, JANUARY 18**

## PROPOSED GROUP SLATES 2016

### CHAGALL

PRESIDENT: Nada Chandler  
PRESIDENT ELECT: Marjorie Leventon  
TREASURER: Robin Beerman  
VP PROGRAMMING: Diane Dorf  
VP EDUCATION: Mari Barkhausen  
VP FUNDRAISING: Linda Waldman  
VP MEMBERSHIP: Andrea Eisenstein  
RECORDING SECRETARY: Lydia Bilton  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Judith Krull  
RECORDS ADMINISTRATOR: Robin Dorfman  
GROUP ADVISOR: Keren Flores

### MAZAL

PRESIDENT: Martha Raskin  
EDUCATION VP: Sue Hall & Donna Weinberg  
PROGRAMMING VP: Yaffa Steubinger & Susan Marblestone  
MEMBERSHIP VP: Carol Cushing & Roberta (Bobbi) Tucker  
TREASURER: Debbi Pacht  
AT LARGE : Trudi Esses  
PAST PRESIDENT: Judy Ostrow & Irene Helsinger

### WISE

PRESIDENT: Rosalyn Saron  
MEMBERSHIP VP: Michelle Greenberg  
FUNDRAISING: Riki Roussos  
RECORDING SECRETARY: Rosalie Halpin  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Babette Weiser  
TREASURER: Bernice Reichstein  
EDUCATION VP: Barbara Brown  
PUBLICITY: Sondra Shapiro  
PROGRAMMING: Joan Katz  
RECORDS ADMINISTRATOR: Riki Roussos  
GROUP ADVISOR: Babette Weiser

### AVIV (WOODLANDS)

PRESIDENTS: Tina Gross, Michelle Mondry  
TREASURER: Elizabeth Leass  
PROGRAMMING VP: Bonnie Pfrenger  
DONOR VP: Adele Robins  
MEMBERSHIP VP: Terri Singer  
EDUCATION VP: Esther Friedman  
RECORDING SECRETARY: Janessa Welch  
GSW AREA VP: Debby Rice

## COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Jewish action day January 14 is co-sponsored nationally by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA) and National Council for Jewish Women (NCJW).

The local event, "Hannah's Vision" will be held on Sunday, January 31 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Congregation Beth Israel. The talk features national expert Lori Cohen, community activist Kathryn Griffin and Special Advisor to the Mayor of Houston on Human Trafficking, Minal Patel Davis. The day is sponsored by NCJW Greater Houston Section, Congregation Beth Israel Sisterhood, and Congregation Beth Israel Miriam Browning Learning Center.

Lori Cohen, Director of the Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services in New York will offer insights on how to organize to fight human trafficking.

Kathryn Griffin is founder of *We've Been There, Done That*, a program she designed to help prevent sex workers and drug addicts from returning to lives of crime. A reformed drug addict who turned to prostitution to support her habit, she will share her experiences with traffickers and the trafficked.

The program will close with Minal Patel Davis, Special Advisor to the Mayor on Human Trafficking for Houston, who will provide an update on local efforts to address the trafficking issues as we approach two major draws for human traffickers: the Final Four in April 2016 and Super Bowl 2017. She will also highlight what we can do, collectively and individually, to combat human trafficking.

Sign up at [hannahsvision@ncjwhouston.org](mailto:hannahsvision@ncjwhouston.org). Please bring food, toiletries and grocery store gift cards for the Human Trafficking Program Pantry.

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...President's Column continued from page 2

- TEDx presentation in Jaffa, Israel. Research concentrating on melanoma continues as well.
- Advocating with legislators about domestic issues such as Gender Equity in Medical Research (GEM) and human trafficking.

If you are actively involved with Hadassah, thank you! If you are not yet involved, I challenge each of you to join me and to contribute whatever time and expertise you can. As informed members, we join with 330,000 other members, associates and supporters to move Henrietta Szold's vision forward and make a profound difference in our world.

## MAZEL TOV, BUBBIE! AND MAZEL TOV, MOMMY! MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Have you made all the new (and not so new) babies in your life Hadassah Life Members or Associates yet? Take advantage of the very special price of \$212 while you can! Regular price for life membership is \$360 and \$300 for associate membership.

**Mazel Tov, Bubbie and Mommy** Chair Linda Freedman Block is thrilled to report that people are signing up their babies and grandbabies as fast as she can ask them!

Pick up life membership and associate forms at the office at 4654 Beechnut or call our office, 713-661-1022. Email your picture with your new member or associate to [Lindafreedmanblock@gmail.com](mailto:Lindafreedmanblock@gmail.com). Identify everyone in the photo and let us know who the generations of Hadassah members are in your family. For more information, contact Linda at 713-729-6221.

The proud Hadassah generations of the Stein family are:

Pictured on the left are Paula Stein and granddaughter, Sofia Rose Stein

Meghan Stein - mother

Paula Stein - grandmother

Martha Lea Stein z"l - great grandmother



**HADASSAH**

Greater Southwest

### **OUR FIRST HADASSAH GREATER SOUTHWEST REGION BOARD MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY JANUARY 30 - SUNDAY JANUARY 31 IN HOUSTON**

WE WILL KICK OFF THE YEAR WITH TRAINING SATURDAY NIGHT FROM  
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM TO HELP YOU HAVE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

ALL CHAPTER AND GROUP PRESIDENTS AND  
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ARE ASKED TO ATTEND

THE REGION WILL PAY FOR HALF OF THE HOTEL ROOM AND THE  
LOWEST AIRFARE OR MILEAGE IF YOU DRIVE WITH SOMEONE AND  
IT IS 100 MILES ROUNDTrip

Double Tree by Hilton – Houston Hobby Airport at 8181 Airport Blvd is the hotel

A block of hotel rooms is available at the Double Tree by Hilton – Houston Hobby Airport  
until January 16 for \$92. Call 713-645-3000 and mention Hadassah to make a reservation

Registration is \$40, please send your check by the January 25 deadline  
Payment for the board meeting will be accepted by check only

Make checks payable to GREATER SOUTHWEST REGION OF HADASSAH  
Mail To: GREATER SOUTHWEST REGION OFFICE, 16910 Dallas Pkwy Suite 218, Dallas, TX 75248  
Cancellation Deadline: Friday January 25 – no refunds will be made after that date