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## NEW NICU AT HADASSAH: FIRST OF ITS KIND IN ISRAEL

**T**iny patients with big problems are now being treated in the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem—the first of its kind in Israel.

The newest addition to Hadassah's Neonatology Department, located in the Charlotte R. Bloomberg Mother and Child Center, the innovative NICU combines advanced technology with private rooms and dedicated multidisciplinary health care professionals, including a nutritionist and physical therapist. Most babies admitted to the NICU are premature, have low birth weights, and/or special conditions that need immediate specialized care. Typically, they are so small you could hold each one in your palm—if they weren't attached to so many tubes and life-saving devices.

### Let's meet a few:

In Baby Room One, there is a baby boy that has no name yet; he is too sick to undergo a circumcision ceremony where he will finally get his name. His parents, in their forties, waited a long time to get the news that his mother was pregnant. And with twins! His brother is home from the hospital, but this other twin has a faulty connection between his esophagus and trachea. Air flows into his stomach instead of his lungs. This baby needs surgery, and a consultation for his heart and skeletal problems that are often linked to this esophageal problem. His distraught parents are counting on Hadassah's team of experts to bring him through.

In Baby Room Two, there is a baby girl—the fourth child of a young religious family. Everything seemed fine during the pregnancy, but the nurses in the hospital where she was born noticed a blue tinge. She



was rushed to Hadassah Ein Kerem where she was stabilized and will undergo heart surgery. Her parents are counting on Hadassah to bring her through.

In Baby Room Three, there is a baby girl from the Palestinian Authority, who was born with a vascular problem called “Vein of Galen Malformation.” Misshapen arteries in her brain are connected directly with veins, instead of capillaries, which help slow blood flow. This causes a rush of high-pressure blood towards her little heart and lungs. She has already had three brain catheterizations by Hadassah experts. Her parents are counting on Hadassah to bring her through.

The new eight-bed NICU doesn't just provide space and protection from infection to these at-risk newborns. It also allows parents to be integral parts of their care, explains NICU Director Prof. Smadar Eventov-Friedman. “Bonding with a sick infant is crucial,” says Prof. Eventov-Friedman. “Parents need to be close at hand for feeding and bathing and to become part of the baby's care from the beginning.” Therefore, in addition to the complex machinery, such as

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## Meet the new co-presidents

Shalom Hadassah of Northern Virginia! We are excited to be your new co-presidents. Thanks to our amazing family members, both of us are third-generation life members of Hadassah. 12 years ago, we met at a Hadassah dinner – a testament to how Hadassah brings women together. We want to ensure the next generation of NOVA women has this opportunity as well. Together with our energetic Board and Volunteers, we are learning more and talking to Hadassah leadership and members. We have several immediate goals and need your help to meet them.

**Goal One:** Help people understand what Hadassah is, and what it means to us as American Jewish women in NOVA. What motivated you to become a more active Hadassah member? Is it the Israel or Zionist part of the organization? The health and medicine side? Or are you excited to get up and advocate? What will motivate your friends and family? The more relevant we can make our chapter, the more interesting it will be for all of us.

**Goal Two:** Activate our existing Hadassah members across the chapter. Did you know our NOVA chapter includes FIVE counties: Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William? There are several active groups, including the Dining Club; the Book Club; the Al Galgalim group at Sha'are Shalom in Leesburg to name a few. To help activate our members, we are encouraging at least one event in each county. One should be in your area. Don't forget to bring a friend!

Please email us at [northernvirginia@hadassah.org](mailto:northernvirginia@hadassah.org) with your ideas and let us know if you have time to volunteer. We look forward to meeting you!



*Co-presidents Marnie Fienberg and Andi Wirpel at the 2017 Great Big Challah Bake.*

## NEW NICU *(continued from previous page)*

mechanical ventilators and monitors for every life function, there's an easy chair for mom and dad plus a small refrigerator to store supplements for the baby.

When Prof. Eventov-Friedman was a medical student, she relates, few of these babies would have had a chance of surviving. But the huge leaps in neonatal care have enabled sophisticated interventions that save babies' lives and give them quality of life. "A child born with low weight or the need for surgical or subspecialist intervention has as good a chance of survival at Hadassah as in any top medical center in the world," she says.

Hadassah's Neonatology Department includes well-baby care and two intensive care units—the other, at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus. Close to 13,000 babies were born at Hadassah last year. While the vast majority are healthy and go home in two days, because Hadassah is a referral center for high-risk pregnancy, there is a spiraling need for intensive care, explains Dr. Benjamin Bar-Oz, head of the Neonatology Department.

## From Our Outgoing President

Shalom Chaverot! This is the last letter that I will be writing to you as president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of Hadassah. On November 12, two wonderful were installed as co-presidents of our chapter, Marnie Fienberg and Andi Wirpel. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I will join two other women in a Hadassah Greater Washington presidium (GW). Being located geographically in the center of political power provides a lot of opportunity for advocacy, which also entails considerable work for the region leadership. For example: last spring Hadassah National held a Women's Health Summit in Washington, DC after developing a coalition of organizations interested in gender equity in medical research, medical decision-making authority, economic and racial equity in access to treatment, etc. Many of us attended and experienced the excitement of this effort first hand. This coming spring, instead of a national convention in July, our Hadassah will sponsor another Women's Health Summit in combination with some of the kinds of activities that typically occur during a national convention. However, the third day will be devoted to lobbying our congressional representatives and senators in an effort to support legislation to bring us closer to our goals. There will be many opportunities for our members, along with members of other chapters of GW, to volunteer as ushers, greeters and even to chair some of the committees.

Over the past two years, first as co-president with Gloria Graham, who devoted tremendous effort to us, and then flying solo this year, I worked with the NOVA board to renew our chapter, which for several years did not even have a board but was kept alive by the efforts of a handful of people. Rhonda Weiner was asked to create a nominating committee to find board members for 2018. In addition to Rhonda, the committee members were Ronnie Ginsberg, Debbie Spitzer, Judy Branting, Margie Somers and Samara Weinstein. Together, they found volunteers for all of the board positions except fundraising. Some of the current board members have agreed to remain on the board to work with the new presidents. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, at our membership luncheon, the new board was installed. You can find a full listing of the board, and their contact information, on the last page of this *Kol*. We are still seeking one or more people to serve as vice president(s) for fundraising and hope to fill that position by the end of the year.

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## Upcoming events

2018 promises to be a year full of activities for the Northern Virginia Chapter and the Greater Washington Region of Hadassah. Mark your calendars now for these upcoming activities, and keep your eyes on your email for updates and to register! (See page five for dates of upcoming book club meetings.)

<b>December 3, 2017</b> 11:00 am—1:30 pm	<b>Greater Washington Winter Program and Installation of Officers</b> Bender JCC of Greater Washington
<b>December 13, 2017</b> 12:30 pm	<b>Rachel Landy Chanukah Luncheon</b> A La Lucia Restaurant, 315 Madison St., Alexandria
<b>January 21, 2018</b> 11:30 am	<b>Dining Out</b> Me Jana Restaurant, 2300 Wilson Boulevard ( <i>please bring cash for the bill</i> )
<b>January 30, 2018</b> TBD	<b>Tu B'shevat Seder</b> JCC of Northern Virginia
<b>February 4, 2018</b> TBD	<b>Urban Evolution—a family wellness event</b> 5505 Cherokee Ave, Alexandria
<b>March 11, 2018</b> TBD	<b>Israel Bonds Event</b> TBD

## *From Our Outgoing President (continued from previous page)*

November is a month in which we focus on thankfulness. I am thankful to the wonderful people who have helped to run the chapter for the past couple of years. On the chapter level, Hadassah Northern Virginia has much to be thankful for. The move from the widely dispersed Northern Seaboard Region to the GW Region brought us closer to people we can work with to be effective and successful as a chapter. It also gives us a wider variety of activities to attend and in which to participate. The reorganization and consolidation of regions into larger geographic areas will bring us into contact with people from other chapters and regions with whom we can share ideas for programs and fundraising activities, amongst other possibilities for development.

We also celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration which called for the partition of the British ruled mandate of Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state on November 29, 1947. That the resolution would pass was not a given. However, it did pass with 33 countries in the UN supporting it, 13 opposing it and 10 abstaining. Israel has had to fight for survival since it became a state in 1948 because the Arab states refuse to accept existence of a Jewish state. It should be noted with pride that Hadassah was prepared for statehood and for treatment of casualties of the conflict over Israel's existence and played an important role in her survival. Hadassah established a healthcare system when it was still part of the Ottoman Empire, nurtured its clinics, hospitals, and youth rescue villages through the British Mandate, and saw to it that the modern State of Israel would be born with necessary infrastructure. Hadassah still maintains the two hospitals in Jerusalem, where, with our support, cutting edge medical research is done and treatment provided.

Thank you for your support over the past two years. I look forward to seeing you at region and national events, in addition to those of our chapter. Best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration!

B'Shalom

Sarah

## Upcoming book club meetings

The Northern Virginia Chapter of Hadassah's book club meets once a month for a potluck lunch to network and have a guided discussion about the selected book. Please contact Susan Rosenblum ([therose.bloom@gmail.com](mailto:therose.bloom@gmail.com)) to be added to the mailing list for details. All meetings are at noon unless otherwise noted.

### **Tuesday, December 12th, 2017**

"*The Paris Architect*" by Charles Belfoure  
Hostess: Judy Gabel  
Leaders: Merly Goldin and Sandee Mervis

### **Tuesday, January 9th, 2018**

"*Jennie*" by Ralph Martin  
Hostess: Lynn Mark  
Leaders: Janine Rubens and Madeleine Perlin

### **Tuesday, February 13th, 2018**

"*Portrait of Elliot*" by Robin Thompson  
Hostess: Robin Thompson  
Leader: Robin Thompson

### **Tuesday, March 13th, 2018**

"*Personal History*" by Katherine Graham  
Hostess: Ann Miller  
Leaders: Janine Rubens and Lynn Mark

### **Tuesday, April 10th, 2018**

"*Karolina's Twins*" by Ronald H. Balson  
Hostess: Rhonda Brown  
Leader: Laura Budiansky

### **Tuesday, May 8th, 2018**

"*In My Brother's Image*" by Eugene Pogany  
Hostess: Judy Halperin  
Leader: AnnEllen Feltcorn

### **Tuesday, June 12th, 2018**

"*Small Great Things*" by Jodi Picoult  
Hostess: Susan Rosenblum  
Leaders: Susan Rosenblum and Betty Shanley

### **Tuesday, June 26th, 2018**

Planning Meeting  
Hostess: Debbie Weber  
Leader: Susan Rosenblum

## What you've missed...

### Dining out

The September dining out event was a big success, with over a dozen women braving rush hour traffic to meet for an Indian vegetarian dinner at Saravana Palace on a Thursday evening. We all agreed that we should have more dining out events and the programming committee is currently exploring possibilities in different parts of northern Virginia. If you have any restaurant ideas, please contact Robin Thompson ([robinbthompson@verizon.net](mailto:robinbthompson@verizon.net)) or any other member of the programming team.

### Great Big Challah Bake

The Great Big Challah Bake, cosponsored by Hadassah, JCC of Northern Va., Gesher Jewish Day School, Chabad, and several synagogues, brought together a lively group of women to experience challah baking. Two hundred fifty amazing women—young and old, seasoned bakers and newbies—joined efforts to make challah dough in preparation for Shabbat. Every participant received a large mixing bowl filled with all the tools she would need to make two delicious challahs—yeast, flour, water, sugar, salt, eggs, utensils, baking pans, and a commemorative apron. Imagine eight bowls of rising dough at a table, eight women sharing expertise and swapping challah stories! While the dough rose, we grabbed a nosh and then participated in a mitzvah auction. For a pledge to do a Shabbat-related mitzvah, you could enter a raffle for a related item—a mezuzah, crystal candlesticks, a holiday honey dish, challah covers, etc. We each took home two challahs ready for the oven and memories of a warm and wonderful evening together. Many special thanks to Debbie Spitzer, Hadassah's representative to the planning committee, for all of her hard work.



*250 women met to #RiseTogether at the second annual Northern Virginia Great Big Challah Bake*



*The Northern Virginia Chapter of Hadassah had two tables at the Great Big Challah Bake—lots of laughter all around!*



## Mark your Calendar! Rachel Landy Chanukah Lunch

**Wednesday, December 13**

12:30 PM

**A La Lucia Restaurant**  
315 Madison St.  
Alexandria, VA

RSVP by 12/11 to Dotty Feldman [letseeme@netscape.net](mailto:letseeme@netscape.net), 703-768-0380.

Carpooling from Paul Spring at noon.

## Day on the Hill Recap

By Rhonda Weiner

I joined Hadassah in 1983 and on Tuesday, October 24th, I attended my first ever **Day on the Hill**. For those that don't know about DOH, this is an opportunity for Hadassah women to see, hear, and be heard by representatives from The State Department, Israeli Embassy, and Congress. DOH is historically a region wide event so there were about 80 Hadassah members (and a couple of Associate Members) from Baltimore, Greater Washington, including DC and Maryland, and Northern Virginia. Sarah Elpern and I were the two from Northern Virginia.

We were scheduled to begin the day at the State Department but due to a scheduling conflict, the State Department could not accommodate us. We began the day at Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase, MD, where we heard two speakers from the State Department address relations in the Middle East, the relationship between Israel and the U.S. and other international (European) updates. We then departed on buses for the Israeli Embassy (another first for me) where we had a lovely lunch and were briefed by the Minister of Public Diplomacy. Back on the buses, we headed to Capitol Hill. Lucky for us, President Trump was also on Capitol Hill that day so getting there and back was a bit of challenge. In true Hadassah form, we prevailed. We were greeted by a couple of different staffers and then joined by two of our Senators where we received briefings from local Legislators. Most of the briefing centered on tax reform. You knew you were hearing an honest perspective with fact based information.

The weather that day was perfect, the company was great, the knowledge gained was beneficial. Overall, a worthwhile day. I look forward to participating in the next Day on the Hill, hopefully, with a stronger representation from the Northern Virginia Chapter.

Be on the look out for **Date with the State** coming up in February. We'll go to Richmond and spread our voice to our State Legislators.



*Sarah Elpern and Rhonda Weiner at the 2017 Day on the Hill*

## Lost, but found!

This earring was found at the end of the November 12 Membership Gala. If it's yours, please contact Rhonda at 703-578-0174 so she can get it back to you!



## Membership news

Margie Somers [msomers316@aol.com](mailto:msomers316@aol.com)

Rhonda Weiner [rhondaw83@verizon.net](mailto:rhondaw83@verizon.net)

*Please contact Margie Somers or Rhonda Weiner if you have any Membership News to share. We'd be happy to post your simchas, anniversaries, retirements, condolences, and birthdays.*

### Welcome to the following new Life Members:

- ✧ **Melinda Roth**
- ✧ **Judy Back**
- ✧ **Gabriela Miller**
- ✧ **Maggie Rose**, who was given the gift of Life Membership by Cindy Goldstein
- ✧ **Lara Abrams Melman** who was given the gift of Life Membership by Elizabeth Margosches

### Welcome to the following new members:

- ✧ **Cindy Babbitt** who was gifted an annual membership by Bernice Weiss
- ✧ **Shirley Kossoy** who was gifted an annual membership by Howard Kossoy
- ✧ **Shelly Kerman**
- ✧ **Mimi Herbert**
- ✧ **Rona Moshell**
- ✧ **Abbey Siciliano**

### Welcome to the following members who have transferred to the Northern Virginia Chapter. We look forward to meeting you soon:

- ✧ **Glenda Bromberg**
- ✧ **Wendy DiLisi**
- ✧ **Aviella Goldsmith**
- ✧ **Mina Goldsmith**
- ✧ **Rafaella Goldsmith**
- ✧ **Pamela Kesner**
- ✧ **Kerri Sarembock**
- ✧ **Julie Wallick**
- ✧ **Ivy Weitzner**
- ✧ **Lori Zabler**

Welcome to transfer Life member **Rachel Blumenthal** and her daughter, Child Life Member, **Maya**

Welcome back to **Irene and Bernie Silver** who have returned to us from Las Vegas.

Mazel tov to Great-Grandmother **Anita Turk** and Grandmother, **Ellen Whitten** on the August birth of their identical twin grandsons.

Mazel tov to first time Great-Grandmother, **Bobbie Ebert** on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Izza of Israel. The proud grandparents are Joseph and Davora Ebert, also of Israel.

Mazel Tov to **Patty and Steve Rosenberg** on the upcoming marriage of their son Randy

Condolences to **Judy Greenberg** and Family on the loss of her husband, Gene

Condolences to **Phyllis Lustig** and Family on the recent loss of her husband, Jacob.

Refuah shlema (get well wishes) to **Diane Sollod**

## NOVA Hadassah Leadership

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We welcome all members, Associates and Hadassah supporters to invest in the future of Israel and medicine by joining Hadassah's Annual Giving Societies.

 Keepers of the Gate  Chai Society

[hadassah.org/keepers](http://hadassah.org/keepers) [hadassah.org/chaisociety](http://hadassah.org/chaisociety) 800.928.0685

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