



January/February 2018

Danville

As 2017 closes, the Danville Chapter of Hadassah can look back on our accomplishments with pride. With the help of our members, we reached several fundraising goals – our “Tower of Love” campaign in February (to benefit the Sarah Davidson Wetsman Tower at Hadassah Hospital), our donor event in May, the New Year and birthday/anniversary cards projects, and the biggest of all, our Angels of Mercy campaign this fall. Special thanks to Jo Ann Howard and Ronnie Mand for their efforts as “Angel” chairs again this year. All of our members also deserve much credit for supporting our chapter’s endeavors so generously.

The Danville Chapter Board (Melanie Vaughan, Ronnie Mand, Jo Ann Howard, and I) will be meeting early in the new year to plan our events for 2018. We would love input from our members! Please feel free to contact any of the board members with suggestions for programming and/or fundraising. We will continue our tradition of “breaking Esther’s fast” with a dinner meeting on Wednesday, February 28th. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for a food- and fun-filled evening.

Several very important events are being planned by the National Hadassah organization in 2018. The Hadassah Nurses Council is developing a health summit to be held in Washington, DC May 14 – 17. In addition, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing and the 100th anniversary of the Hadassah Medical Organization, a special trip to Israel is being planned. “From Dream to Innovation: The Hadassah Milestone Mission” to Israel will take place October 7 – 15, 2018. Either of these opportunities is a fabulous way to connect with the wonderful work of Hadassah and to rekindle your passion for our great organization.

Our own chapter will be celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2018. The Danville chapter was one of the earliest Hadassah affiliates and has been doing its part to support Israel in many ways during many trying times. Look for more information soon on the centennial celebrations being planned.

The days are growing longer, a minute at a time, now that the winter solstice is behind us. I urge you to continue to be a light unto the world rather than cursing the darkness. And once again I ask you to please continue your support of Hadassah, a beacon of hope and healing that demonstrates “the power of women who do!”

Martha Woody, Danville Chapter President

Keeping Up with our Members

Talia Naomi Levey is our newest child Life Member. This was a special gift from Lindy Levey, her very proud grandmother.

Laura Kondos, former Danville member, passed away in November in Bativa, IL.

Did we miss your news? Be sure to contact Martha Woody, 276-638-4316, and we'll include you in our next newsletter!

Did You Know This About Our Danville Chapter?

- *Our Danville Chapter will be celebrate its **100th anniversary** in 2018!
- *In 1949 Danville members **made an emergency plea on WBTM radio station** for clothes and other items which were desperately needed for new babies in the new state of Israel.
- *In 2005-2006 Danville was **one of six chapters out of 700** to surpass all membership and fundraising goals
- *We have a **Golden Book** dating from 1946 to 1965, which includes the birth announcements of two of our members, Ronnie Koplen Mand and Lindy Koplen Levey. (The two earlier books were not passed on to us.)

What's Happening with our Danville Projects



Youth Aliyah – Did you forget to mail your card list and check to Susanne for our 2018 birthday/anniversary card project? Let her know that it's on its way or that you need another one. Just email her at susannesinger1@hotmail.com.



Angels of Mercy – Ladies we have awesome news! Our 2017 Angels of Mercy project raised **\$15,000!** Thank you to the seven women who procured the business ads and to all of you who contributed as personals.



Life Membership – What a wonderful way to share Hadassah! Make a family member or friend a member for life! **The cost is still only \$250.** Contact Jo Ann Howard today via email or call her at 434-799-3505.



Hanukkah - Thank you to Ronnie Mand for hosting our annual Hanukkah dinner and all those who brought side dishes. We learned many new "facts" about Hanukkah and lit up the evening with our candlelighting ceremony.

What's Happening on Hadassah's National Scene?

Last month Barbara Sofer, Israel Director of Public Relations at the Hadassah Offices in Israel, Jerusalem shared a story for each night of Hanukkah through her Netletters. Get out a tissue and read two of her stories below.

HADASSAH



This is another story I heard this week from Prof. Itay Chowers, the new head of the Ophthalmology Department. A teenage boy came to him from Gaza. His eyes were in terrible shape. He had retinoblastoma, a rare cancer of the retina. He'd undergone unsuccessful surgery. He'd had trauma to his eyes from a blow or accident. One eye was now blind. The other had minimal vision. We don't know how he found his way to Hadassah.

"There are no answers for such a case in the books," said Prof. Chowers, "but I decided to do what I could." He cleaned up the remnants of the cancer, attached the retina, applied silicone oil to hold it in place and made a few other medical adjustments. The boy was able to see in one eye. One day the boy knocked on his door. He had graduated from high school and taken his exams, placing number one in his school. The valedictorian prize was a trip to Jerusalem. He couldn't come to Jerusalem without thanking the Hadassah doctor and hospital that had made the greatest moment of his life possible. Think of all the light we can bring to the world just by belonging to and supporting Hadassah!

HADASSAH



Ever visit a dog pound? Most of the dogs have undergone abandonment or abuse. But what would happen if teens who had undergone abandonment and abuse took care of them? At Hadassah Neurim, our Youth Aliyah village near Netanya, the once-pitiful dogs are thriving under the care of these teens who come from broken families. It's the newest idea to help the teens at the residential youth village gain self-esteem, to give and receive love and to learn about responsibility. 450 at-risk teens go the school, take part in sports and music, and learn to follow a routine after coming from dysfunctional homes.

Hanukkah is a special time at Hadassah Neurim, because it marks the dangerous night escape in 1948 from the Ben Shemen youth village which was under attack in the War of Independence. You might remember a scene from the movie *Exodus* of children being carried to safety. The movie was staged in a kibbutz, but the real escape was from Ben Shemen to Hadassah Neurim, then an abandoned British army barracks. Hadassah has been in the business of saving children at risk since the first youth fled the Nazis to pre-State Israel.