



**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019**  
**DANVILLE**

It is traditional as we move from one calendar/civil year to the next, to take stock of our accomplishments (and defeats!) over the preceding months and to make resolutions for the future. The Danville chapter of Hadassah can be justly proud of our work over the past year, and the support that we have provided to Hadassah Medical Organization. Our recently completed, and once again highly successful, Angels of Mercy campaign raised over \$14,500 to donate to HMO's efforts in medical care and research. We have also supported Youth Aliyah and Young Judea through our New Year and birthday/anniversary card projects. Generous donors have given unrestricted (and in some cases, unsolicited) contributions that support any and all Hadassah projects. However, we are not about to rest on our laurels, and another big challenge awaits us in 2019.

Shortly after Israel's war of independence, Hadassah's hospital on Mount Scopus was in Jordanian hands and inaccessible. Hadassah subsequently built the hospital at Ein Kerem, whose cornerstone was laid in 1953. At that time, the hospital was on the cutting-edge of both architecture and medical care. Its "round building," designed by famed architect Joseph Neufeld, circled the corridors around a central core, eliminating the long and impersonal hallways of "shoebox" hospitals.

But in 65 years, much has changed! Open-heart surgery, dialysis, bone marrow and other organ transplants could only be dreamed of in 1953. Now in 2019, a major campaign is underway to refurbish this building into a new state-of-the-art medical facility where hematology-oncology, internal medicine, geriatrics, and ophthalmology departments will provide the latest in medical care in a patient-focused environment. Hadassah's "Full Circle Campaign: 360 Degrees of Healing" is helping to raise the funds to bring the "round building" into the 21st century. With additional support from the Israeli government, Hadassah aims to have the new building completed by 2020.

Of course, the Danville chapter will be a part of this effort! Our "No Show Ball" fundraiser, which raised money for the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower at HMO in Jerusalem, will continue as part of the "360 Degrees of Healing" campaign. Look for those cute "non-invitations" in January, and please be generous!

Thank you for your support of Hadassah in the past year, and best wishes to all of you for health and happiness in 2019.

Martha Woody, President

## Keeping Up with our Members

Wishes of Mazel Tov go to Life Member Abby Paulson her recent marriage to David Lesorgen on November 10<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta. Other Life Members in attendance were grandmother Mildred Barth, mother Jill Paulson, sister Dana Eisenman, cousin Ronnie Mand, and student rabbi Mary Brett Koplen who officiated her cousin's wedding!

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

## What's Happening with our Danville Projects

A big thank you goes out to our Hadassah members and other supporters who helped our chapter send over \$23,700 to National Hadassah in 2018 to help fund the areas listed below.

- **Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO)**



**No Show Ball** supported the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower.



**Angels of Mercy Thanksgiving Ad** supported medical care and research at both hospital sites



**Donor/Candle Lighting/ Silver Chai/Keepers of the Gate/Unsolicited Funds**

- **Young Judaea**



**New Year Card 5779** supported scholarships for Young Judaea campers in the United States

- **Youth Aliyah**



**Birthday/Anniversary Cards** supported the needs of the Youth Aliyah villages in Israel

- **Jewish National Fund (JNF)** Although we do not do actively solicit for funds, members may still purchase certificates through our chapter (\$18)

## How We Celebrated Together in 2018

As you will read below, it's fun to come to a meeting! If you have to travel a bit, take the time and you'll certainly get a better understanding of why this small Danville Chapter is able to accomplish so much!



**Break Esther's Fast** – This annual event was held in February at Cotton at Riverside Mill. Melanie Vaughan presented a very interesting program on Heart Health which included facts and myths, important signs to watch for, and how we should take an active role in our own health care. We need to remember not to be Haman and destroy our bodies, but rather to be like Esther and step outside our comfort zone to save what is precious to us.



**100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** – Ronnie Mand hosted this festive event in May and we were honored to have Southern Seaboard President Gail Moskowitz as our guest speaker. Our program also highlighted Danville Hadassah's history through the decades. It was a wonderful celebration!



**Hanukkah** - Thank you to Mira Becher for hosting a wine and cheese party for our annual Hanukkah celebration in early December. During our program we learned about the important role of women during the time of the Macabees and also how we can relate the letters on the dreidel to our lives.

**Your** Danville Hadassah Board is getting ready to set the project goals and programs for our 2019 year. We hope you will continue to support these projects so that life saving medical care and research can continue, the 360 project will be successful, campers will receive financial assistance, and youth aliyah villages will meet the children's needs. Thank you for caring!

## **From Hadassah's National News**

Hanukkah is over, but it is well worth reading about one of the many Hanukkah miracles shared below. This is one reason why our chapter supports Hadassah's Youth Aliyah programs!

### **Nurse and Patient Embrace After 71 Years: Hanukkah Miracle #8**

A modern miracle took place just before Hanukkah this year at a study day about the British detention camps on Cyprus, where 52,000 Jews, mostly Holocaust survivors captured on Israel-bound ships like the Exodus, were put behind barbed wire after World War II, before the State of Israel came into being.

The last speaker on the program was Margalit Fried, 92. Born in Germany, Fried and her four siblings were among the children rescued from Germany by Henrietta Szold and Youth Aliyah in 1938 and brought to a village near Haifa. "I remember the day Ms. Szold came to visit, and I got to present her with a box of chocolate," she said. Fried grew up to be a Hadassah nurse and in 1947 got permission to volunteer with the many babies being born in Cyprus. "It was a shock," she recalled. "At Hadassah Hospital, everything was sterile. Here in Cyprus, 60 babies and 120 parents were crowded into a space so small that there wasn't even light."

On that first day she overheard a conversation about a very sick baby. The doctor and nurse in charge wanted to call an ambulance so that the baby wouldn't die in the Baby House. Fried impulsively volunteered to care for the baby. Although she didn't speak a common language with the young parents from Hungary, she convinced them to give their baby into her care. "There's no time to waste," she said. For the next three days, she sat in a storeroom and fed him water with a teaspoon because there were no bottles. She washed him and built a bed for him from a carton. "Finally, he stopped throwing up," Fried continued. "The Baby House was noisy, but when people came near that room, they whispered. Everyone knew something holy was going on." Two weeks later, she returned the baby to his parents, and someone slipped another infant into her arms. What was the baby's name? She had no idea. "There were so many babies," she said. The emcee of the program couldn't prevent a grin. There was a stirring in the audience. A stocky man, announced as Meir Weiss, came onto the stage. A father of three, Weiss, now 71, is the proprietor of the Weiss Bakery in Herzliya, famous for cheesecake, Hungarian frosted rum cake, and, yes, Hanukkah donuts. He was the baby Fried saved. When he wrapped the petite nonagenarian nurse in his baker's arms and sobbed, so did the 300 people in the audience.

Youth Aliyah graduates, like nurse Margalit Fried, have played and continue to play a special role in giving back to Israeli society. Today, at Hadassah youth villages Meir Shfeya and Hadassah Neurim, nearly all the graduates serve in the IDF and volunteer for an additional year to do community work.

While lighting the 8th candle tonight, feel proud for rescuing all those young people, as the blessing says, "in times past and today." And remember, miracles don't happen in a vacuum. We have to make them happen right here on earth.