



## **JULY/AUGUST 2018**

### **Danville**

In May I was privileged to attend the Hadassah Women's Health and Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC, which focused on advocating for gender equity in medical research among other issues, and also celebrated the centennial of the Hadassah Medical Organization and the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing. From a symposium on nurses' roles as advocates for those they care for, to a panel discussion (moderated by Judy Woodruff!) on privacy and technology concerns, to visits with federal legislators on the issues that Hadassah supports (Israel and the Jewish community, gun safety, and women's health equity), the conference was a wonderful example of "the power of women who do"! I was especially proud of Hadassah's role as the lead convener of the Coalition for Women's Health Equity, which presented the Second Annual Women's Health Empowerment Summit on such topics as women's roles as caregivers and the accompanying stress, the need to address mental health issues, and the difficulty women often face in being taken seriously by their doctors, especially when a problem is chronic and difficult to diagnose. I hope to take some of the information that I acquired during the conference to visit with the Ninth District Congressman, Morgan Griffith, during the summer recess.

Very shortly after I returned home from the conference, I was again privileged to attend our own chapter's 100th birthday celebration and donor event, with special guest Gail Moskowitz, president of the Southern Seaboard Region. Gail gave a wonderful presentation on the ability of women to do what must be done, which has led to 100 years of medical and nursing care through the Hadassah Medical Organization and the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing. Ronnie Mand read from the minutes of our chapter's first meetings in 1918, and Jo Ann Howard led the group in a recollection of the chapter's activities in the decades since then. Our chapter may be smaller than in years past, but we continue to be mighty in our Hadassah efforts and our support for Hadassah's mission.

I wish all of you safe and enjoyable vacation activities and hope you can take this time to rest, recreate, and rejuvenate with family and friends. While summer has just begun, it will soon be September and time to work on the Angels of Mercy campaign! Thanks to all of you for all you do!

Martha Woody, President  
Danville Chapter of Hadassah

## Keeping Up with our Members

Mazel Tov to **Martha Woody** on the birth of her granddaughter **Alice Mae Becker Casalotti**. She was born on June 21<sup>st</sup> to proud parents Bernie Becker and **Adrienne Casalotti**. Adrienne is also a member of our Danville Chapter.

Mazel Tov to Gemma Sloane Levey on becoming our newest Child Life Member. Proud Grandma Lindy Levey didn't waste any time in giving this wonderful gift.

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



**Danville Hadassah's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration** was the focus of our annual Donor event. We met at the home of Ronnie Mand who knows how to celebrate with decorations and delicious treats. We were so honored that our Southern Seaboard President Gail Moskowitz celebrated with us! She shared so many wonderful things about Hadassah and made us proud of the role we have played for 100 years. Jo Ann Howard then presented the highlights of our ten Danville Hadassah decades. A good time was had by all who attended!



**Thank you to all of our Donor contributors!**

We have almost reached our Donor goal! For those of you who haven't sent in your check yet...please do so today. Just make your check payable to Hadassah and mail to Jo Ann Howard, 326 Rosemary Lane, Danville, VA 24541.

Remember, your Donor contribution will help us make a difference in so many lives. What a wonderful way to honor our centennial year.



**New Year Card 5779 - This is a wonderful way to remember your Hadassah friends for the New Year!** Denise Johnson, chairman, will be sending out information in July. She is eager to include you in this project.

## What's Happening on Hadassah's National Scene?

**Baby with a Severe Intestinal Defect Receives Medication That Allows Her to Eat Normally** - Administering the lowest possible dosage of a medication never before used on a baby, Dr. Mordechai Slae, a senior pediatric gastroenterologist at Hadassah Medical Center, was able to ameliorate the condition of a 6-month-old baby born with a rare and severe defect in her large intestine. For the first time, the little girl, named Hadassah, was able to eat normally rather than having to be fed intravenously.

Libby and Mordechai, a Jerusalem couple in their thirties, waited seven years for the birth of their daughter. "We did every test in the book, and everything was normal until the ultrasound in week 38," says Libby. A blockage was found in the intestines of the fetus, and Libby was sent to Hadassah Ein Kerem for an MRI. "My water had already broken, and the test results were given to us in the delivery room." After birth, the baby was transferred to the NICU, and more comprehensive tests were conducted. She was diagnosed with Mega Cystis and Micro Colon.

According to Dr. Mordechai Slae, this is a rare occurrence. "There are only 200 cases like this worldwide. The baby was suffering and received acetaminophen around the clock to alleviate some of her pain. Her bladder is too large and her colon too small. This little baby was dependent on intravenous nutrition from day one. In unusual cases like these, my motto is to try every possible solution—even if it seems unorthodox."

**NEWS RELEASE: Natural Killer Cells That Threaten Early Pregnancies Identified by Hadassah Medical Organization Researchers** - Researchers at Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel have identified "natural killer cells" as a key component in answering the perplexing question as to why each subsequent pregnancy is easier and healthier than the first, according to Ellen Hershkin, President, Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization in America, Inc. (HWZOA). The study results, published in the May 15th issue of the medical journal *immunity*, are the product of six years of research led by Dr. Simcha Yagel, head of OB/GYN at HMO, and included analyzing tissue samples from more than 450 pregnancies.

Hershkin states, "Once again, HMO researchers are in the vanguard of providing life-saving, state-of-the-art medical research that is critical to the care, safety and wellbeing of women not only in Israel but around the world. This new study furthers Hadassah's mission to protect and empower women at one of the most critical and defining moments of their life."