



**JULY/AUGUST 2016**  
**DANVILLE**

Our very name, "Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization of America," implies our support for Israel. And certainly, Hadassah has accomplished amazing feats there; beginning by bringing health services to what was then Palestine over a hundred years ago. Our hospitals remain at the cutting edge of medical achievements and are islands of diversity and peace in that troubled area of the world. However, Hadassah also works tirelessly in the United States to advance such concerns as gender equity in medical research and the fight against human trafficking. Most recently, Hadassah added its voice to those advocating for further gun safety legislation after the recent mass shooting in Orlando. As Hadassah National President Ellen Hershkin stated:

*"We mourn for the victims of the Orlando shooting—an act of terrorism and hate here in America. . . . Current laws do not go far enough, nor are enforced rigorously enough, to help prevent gun violence. . . . Hadassah urges legislators at all levels to enact stronger gun control to protect our citizens, our communities and our nation."*

Hadassah has also been an advocate for a woman's right to choose her own reproductive health care. In its policy statement, Hadassah asserts "women are (the) proper moral decision-makers in this area, and ... they should be free to make that decision within the context of their own religious convictions, without interference from the state." In addition, Hadassah has taken a position on any number of domestic issues, including civic participation ("...encouraging informed and active participation in the American democratic process"); protecting the strict separation of church and state; advocating for equal opportunity regardless of race, gender, religion, or other factors; and working to end violence against women.

And of course, Hadassah continues its support for Israel! On June 14th, Ellen Hershkin provided an op-ed piece supporting New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, who is the first U.S. governor to issue an executive order against the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement that targets Israel. Governor Cuomo's action and Hadassah's support for it have helped to expose BDS as a divisive force that works against peace and prosperity in the Middle East.

Hadassah's work makes a huge impact, and our small but mighty Danville chapter is proud to be a part of that work. Join us!

*Martha Woody, President*

P.S. One more reason to support Hadassah - Dr. Dana Wolf, head of the clinical virology unit in the Hadassah Medical Organization's Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, is leading a Hadassah team in studying Zika samples from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Wolf has explained, "Zika is dangerous in the interface between mother and unborn child. That has always been a Hadassah priority."



This year's Donor event, held at the home of Melanie Vaughan, was an informal dinner featuring delicious Israeli style foods, along with a program and celebration of Israel's Independence Day. Those in attendance thought it was a wonderful event and truly enjoyed the evening. Thank you to all of you who supported this project. If you haven't done so yet, send your Donor check today to Jo Ann Howard, 326 Rosemary Lane, Danville, VA 24541.



It is with great sadness that we announce the recent death of **Eileen Stendig** on May 26<sup>th</sup>. She was a long-time member and major contributor. **Adele Nakdimen**, who passed away on April 11<sup>th</sup>, continued to support our chapter even after she moved and transferred her membership. We are glad that these two women were members of our Danville Chapter.



**Life Membership** – What a wonderful way to share Hadassah! Make a family member or friend a member for life! The cost is still only \$212. Contact Jo Ann Howard today via this email or call her at 434-799-3505.

## **Hadassah Convention 2016 Community Service/Mitzvah Project**

Did you know that one child goes through 75 pencils each school year? Yet many children can't afford pencils. That's why Hadassah is conducting a PENCIL DRIVE. Our goal is to collect 10,000 pencils for the "Kids in Need" program at the Atlanta Community Food Bank from attendees at the #HadassahConv2016!

The Kids in Need Program is based on the belief that every child deserves the tools they need for academic achievement. When parents struggle to put food on the table, it can be hard to provide basic school supplies. Every year, Kids in Need distributes hundreds of thousands of pounds of brand-new school supplies to teachers in low-income schools in the Atlanta area. Poverty shouldn't threaten a child's academic success.

Ruthanne Warnick & Lee Kansas, the chairs of our #HadassahConv2016 Community Service/Mitzvah Project, reached out to the Kids in Need manager to find out how Hadassah could help. "We can always use pencils," she said.

Our goal is to collect 10,000 pencils for the Kids in Need program from attendees at the #HadassahConv2016! So bring pencils — any color or design — with you to Atlanta. Pencils are lightweight and easy to pack. Even better, they'll help more children in Atlanta achieve academic success.

**Let's send Martha off to Atlanta with lots of pencils! Contact Jo Ann if you'd like to help. [pkhlov@comcast.net](mailto:pkhlov@comcast.net)**



## **Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem Ranked #1 in Quality Assurance**

Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem has been ranked as the leading medical center in the country for quality assurance by Israel's Ministry of Health.

This is the second year that the Ministry has publicized its statistics, believing that this transparency encourages hospitals to improve their service. Rather than showcasing dramatic surgical results or breakthroughs, these measurements evaluate practices that mark good medicine. They provide a means to define what hospitals actually do, as compared with their original targets, allowing them to identify opportunities for improvement.

One measure, for example, is how long a person who was suffering from an ischemic stroke had to wait before getting a CT scan or MRI. At Hadassah, the answer is 24 minutes. This is in comparison to 55 minutes at Shaare Zedek in Jerusalem, 44 minutes at Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv, and over an hour and a half at Beilinson Hospital in Petach Tikva.

Other indices are as diverse as whether antibiotics were administered before surgery at the correct time, whether hip surgery was completed in under 48 hours, and whether patients were advised properly about certain preventive health measures--for example, at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem, 98 percent of patients were advised about taking aspirin after experiencing a heart blockage. By the same token, women undergoing caesarian sections at Hadassah were all given prophylactic antibiotics to prevent potential infections. While certain hospitals excelled in particular measurements, Hadassah did well in all of them. In addition, Hadassah was praised for making major improvements in all of its measures from 2014 to 2015.

"All the credit goes to Prof. Tamar Peretz, who preceded me," commented Hadassah Medical Organization Director General Prof. Zeev Rotstein. "We always knew that Hadassah has superb medicine and the best medical teams in the country. I hope that in addition to the excellent medicine at Hadassah, we will be able to provide financial security and to propel forward a new Hadassah which will be number one overall in the State of Israel."



## **French Orchestra Makes Debut at Hadassah Hospital**

In addition to its other wonderful features, the Hadassah Medical Center's Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower turned out to be a magnificent concert hall, as the 80-person strong Paris Sciences and Letters Symphony Orchestra and Choir gave its [debut Israel concert](#), made possible by Hadassah France.

Leaving the clinics and operating rooms behind for a musical respite, doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff joined patients in pain and mothers celebrating the birth of their newborns in the Atrium of the Tower to hear Gershwin, Ravel, and Mozart. The loudest cheers came for the orchestra's rendition of *Rhapsody in Blue* and selections from *Porgy and Bess*, including *Summertime*.

This heralded orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Yohan Farjot, was drawn from 21 member institutions of the Parisian University. One of the violinists, who was in Israel for the first time, commented: "We loved playing in the hospital, with the audience a mix of Jews and Arabs, of doctors and sick persons. Isn't that what you call a mitzvah?"