



**MAY/JUNE 2016**  
**DANVILLE**

“Let no stranger be alone on this night, and let all who are hungry come and eat.” So our prayer goes at the beginning of each Seder, when we start to tell the story of how God saved the Israelites from slavery in Mitzrahim, “the narrow place.” Even within this central story of God’s redemption, we Jews ask questions. Why did God harden Pharaoh’s heart? Why did innocents have to suffer in order for the Israelites to be freed? And of course, why is this night different from all other nights? As with so much in Judaism, we have here a model of “endless questioning, in which the answer does not totally silence the questioner.” (From The Torah: A Women’s Commentary)

What does this have to do with Hadassah? Here too, we find significant questions that require serious answers. Henrietta Szold, the founder of Hadassah, had suffered a crushing blow in her personal life and had to ask “what do I do with my life now?” Her answer was to take up a quest to improve the health of those living in Palestine in the early 20th century. Because of her question and its answer, Hadassah continues to work towards tikkun olam, both in Israel and in the United States. “The Power of Women Who Do” attempts to answer the hard questions: What is Zionism? What does it mean to be a Zionist? How do we put our Jewish values into practice in today’s world? Where do feminist issues fit into this framework?

The answers have been numerous and inspiring. From the Hadassah hospitals in Israel, to cutting edge medical research, to advocacy for issues of particular concern to women, to Youth Aliyah efforts and support for Young Judea, Hadassah members and associates continue to provide advocacy and service in areas of great need. Hadassah continues to work towards redeeming the world from the ills that beset it, inspired not just by our namesake Esther but by the brave women of the Passover story as well: the Hebrew midwives, Pharaoh’s daughter, Miriam and Jocheved, and all the unnamed women who were a part of this narrative and whose stories have been lost to us.

Happy Passover to all!  
*Martha Woody, President*





Yom Ha'atzmaut is celebrated on the 5th day of [Iyar](#) in the [Hebrew calendar](#), the anniversary of the day on which Israeli independence was proclaimed, when future prime minister, [David Ben-Gurion](#) publicly read the [Israeli Declaration of Independence](#). The corresponding Gregorian date was May 14, 1948. This year, the date is Thursday, May 12.

The mood outside of Ben-Gurion's home just prior to the declaration was joyous: "The Jews of Palestine were dancing because they were about to realize what was one of the most remarkable and inspiring achievements in human history: A people which had been exiled from its homeland two thousand years before, which had endured countless pogroms, expulsions, and persecutions, but which had refused to relinquish its identity—which had, on the contrary, substantially strengthened that identity; a people which only a few years before had been the victim of mankind's largest single act of mass murder, killing a third of the world's Jews, that people was returning home as sovereign citizens in their own independent state."

Join us for an informal dinner featuring delicious Israeli style foods, a program and celebration of Israel's Independence Day at our **Hadassah Donor** event on **Thursday, May 19, 6:00 at Melanie Vaughan's**

Please RSVP to Melanie, 434-793-0577, or email [karma50@gamewood.net](mailto:karma50@gamewood.net), no later than May 12.



Thank you to everyone who supported ***The Tower of Love No Show Ball***. Because of **YOU**, we were able to send over \$1,100 to support the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower! If you would still like to participate, please send your check, made payable to Hadassah, to Jo Ann Howard, 326 Rosemary Lane, Danville, VA 24541.

**Remember: It's about healing. It's about compassion. It's about life.**



Our annual *Break Esther's Fast* was held on Wednesday, March 23 at Moon River Thai Restaurant. The program on Human Trafficking, presented by Jo Ann Howard, tied the stories of Vashti and Esther to the horrific stories of women and children who are victims of slavery involving sex, drugs, and labor. The stories shared were real and eye-opening. The message: We must be aware of those trapped in these types of bondage and notify the authorities as quickly as possible.

On a happy note, good news was shared during our social time at dinner and the lighting of candles for family and friends!



## **It's not too late to register for Every Step Counts: Hadassah's Walking Program**

Do you wish you had a better way to stay on track with an exercise plan, but you don't want to invest a lot of time/money? With Every Step Counts: Hadassah's Walking Program you can. Just wear a pedometer and enter your steps on our fun website. You'll be amazed how far you really walk every day!

Registration is only \$18. Use any pedometer. You don't need to be a Hadassah member to participate. All funds raised go to support heart health programming in the US. Registration is open now at [www.hadassah.org/everystepcounts](http://www.hadassah.org/everystepcounts).



**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 Launches Coalition for Women's Health Equity with National Women's, Health, and Faith Organizations** - Hadassah announced the launch of the [Coalition for Women's Health Equity](#), which will work to address inequities in quality of care, funding and support, and gaps in women's health awareness, according to Hadassah National President Ellen Hershkin.

Hadassah has convened this coalition in response to pervasive gender disparities throughout the healthcare system, with the mission to create a well-coordinated and unified force to advocate for women's health equity, from prevention and diagnosis, to treatment and cure. Coalition members represent a wide variety of the nation's most prominent organizations including those working towards female empowerment, equitable healthcare access, civil rights, and more. Membership in the Coalition is open and will continue to grow.

Women and men often present different symptoms for the same diseases and react differently to certain drugs, medical devices, and treatments. Gender disparities in medicine—among research subjects, and in health care access and delivery—put women at risk for misdiagnoses, ineffective treatments and compromised care. Heart disease, for example, is the number one killer of women, and yet only one third of cardiac research subjects are women. Studies also show that medical providers are more likely to ascribe women's pain symptoms to stress or psychological causes, and men's symptoms to physical or neurological conditions.

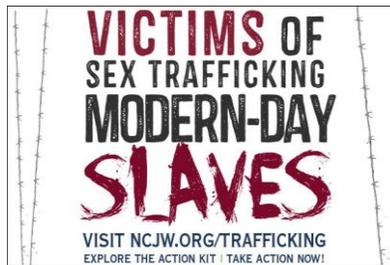
A lack of women's health equity not only impacts the well-being of the American woman now, but for generations to come. The Coalition for Women's Health Equity will publicly promote policies in support of gender equity in medical prevention, research and treatment, and raise awareness about how that lack of equity adversely affects women and families throughout the United States.

**Hadassah-Developed Blood Test Detects Multiple Sclerosis, Cancer & Brain Damage** - A new blood test that uses the DNA strands of dying cells to detect diabetes, cancer, traumatic brain injury, and neurodegenerative disease has been developed by researchers at Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) and The Hebrew University.

**Israel Ministry of Health Survey Rates Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem Emergency Room #1 in Patient Satisfaction** - A survey of over 10,000 ER patients in 26 Hospitals was conducted over 4 months. Survey questions covered the following ER topics: length of waiting time; respectful attitude from the ER staff during the stay; clarity of medical information and evaluation; continuity of treatment; overall satisfaction with the medical facilities. Respondents ranged from seniors to parents of small children who had been brought to the ER and survey questions were conducted in English, Hebrew, Arabic and Russian.

Ellen Hershkin noted, "Hadassah Ein Kerem's ER services are among the finest in the world and the Ministry of Health's patient satisfaction survey affirms our commitment to providing excellent medical service to all people, building 'bridges to peace' across all races, religions and nationalities."

### **Hadassah's Domestic Advocacy: Human Trafficking**



**Sex and Labor Trafficking are happening everywhere:  
-in every state-in every community-in our own neighborhoods -  
This is not just a problem overseas.**

**BE AWARE and HELP THOSE WHO NEED TO ESCAPE THIS WAY OF LIFE**

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

More than:  
80,000 calls

9,000 identified potential victims

3,500 tips delivered to law enforcement

Toll free hotline:  
**1-888-373-7888**

Open 24/7

NCJW  
National Council of Jewish Women

