



May/June 2018

Danville

Paying attention to the daily news these days can be quite challenging to those of us trying to maintain some sense of optimism or hope. Most of us are in search of any point of light in what can seem like a very dark landscape, and fortunately for us, there's Hadassah! As Israel celebrates its 70th birthday, Hadassah Medical Organization, including its Department of Ophthalmology and the Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing, marks 100 years of providing medical care to those who live there, regardless of faith, race, or nationality. To quote National President Ellen Hershkin, "Since our founding, Hadassah has advanced a Zionist vision of building bridges to peace, ensuring the health and well-being of Israel and all its people." In the process, through its research, the Hadassah Medical Organization has brought life-saving advances in the treatment of multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, age-related macular degeneration, and other diseases that have benefited patients worldwide. As part of the "Celebration 100," the Hadassah Women's Health & Advocacy Conference will be held May 15 to 17 in Washington, DC. I am honored to be attending as the Danville chapter delegate and look forward to learning more about women's health and technology, and having the opportunity to talk with our representatives on Capitol Hill.

And speaking of our chapter, we too are celebrating our 100th birthday this year! Founded not long after Henrietta Szold organized Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America in 1912, our chapter has a strong and active history, from sending medical instruments and baby food to Palestine in the early years to our long-running Angels of Mercy campaign that provides much needed financial support to HMO at present. To celebrate this milestone, our chapter is planning a birthday party on Sunday, May 20th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the home of Ronnie Mand. Please join us! You can accept this invitation by emailing Ronnie at rkmand@comcast.net.

Centuries ago, Hillel asked these famous questions: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?" Hadassah answers the first two questions. Your support answers the third! Please send a generous check to our treasurer, Jo Ann Howard, at 326 Rosemary Lane, Danville VA 24541. Thank you!

Martha Woody, President
Danville Chapter of Hadassah

Danville Hadassah's
100th Birthday Celebration
And Donor

Sunday, May 20, 2018

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

235 Brandon Court

R.S.V.P. to Ronnie Mand by May 10th
434-799-3434 or rkmand@comcast.net



Join our special guests
Southern Seaboard President Gail Moskowitz
Area Vice President Leah Cohen

Toast Danville Hadassah's accomplishments over the last
100 years

Make your Donor contribution in honor of this
Centennial celebration

(Mail to Jo Ann Howard, 326 Rosemary Lane, Danville, VA 24541)

Keeping Up with our Members

Mazel Tov to **Lindy Levey** on the birth of her granddaughter **Gemma Sloane Levey**. She was born on March 17th to Dan and Julie Levey. Julie is a former member of our Danville Chapter.

It is with great sadness that I share that **Esther Rippe**, the matriarch of our Danville Chapter, passed away on April 9th at the age of 97. She always supported our projects, even when she was unable to attend functions. May her memory be for a blessing.

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



No Show Ball – This project was a wonderful success. We surpassed our goal!. Thank you to all the participants of this “non event” for contributing over \$1,450 for the Sarah Wetzman Davidson Tower.



Donor - This year is going to be a wonderful **100th** birthday celebration, but it is also an important fundraiser. Please be generous so we can reach our \$2,300 goal. Our small chapter can make a powerful difference in so many lives that need our help!



Candle Lighting – Remember, this is an opportunity for *every* Danville Hadassah member to participate in our beautiful candle lighting tradition! At the end of every meeting members light a Hanukkah menorah and share what is happening with their family and friends. Now, whether you can attend a meeting or not, you can light a menorah for just \$18. Take this opportunity to support Hadassah and at the same time participate in a wonderful tradition! Send your check, made payable to Hadassah, and information, to Jo Ann Howard, 326 Rosemary Lane, Danville, VA 24541.

What's Happening on Hadassah's National Scene?



Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus Hosts Conference to Mark Annual World Down Syndrome Day www.hadassah.org | News & Stories

Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus hosted 200 people at the annual World Down Syndrome Day conference, held at the hospital in late March. The speakers, including a number of Down Syndrome adults who lead active, productive lives, emphasized the need to focus on integrating Down Syndrome patients by ensuring that they are supported to reach their full potential. Among the sponsors of the conference were the Hadassah Medical Organization, Shalva (the Israel Association for the Care and Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities), and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services.

Predicting Clinical Outcomes for Multiple Sclerosis Patients: Cutting-Edge Research at Hadassah www.hadassah.org | News & Stories

Groundbreaking research from Hadassah Hospital helps study clinical outcomes for newly diagnosed Multiple Sclerosis patients. More than two million people--two to three times more women--have multiple sclerosis (MS)--the leading cause of neurological disability among young adults. What is their prognosis?

"We don't really know what an individual's prognosis will be when we first diagnose the disease," relates Dr. Adi Vaknin, Senior Neurologist at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem. That is because there is so much heterogeneity in outcomes, she explains. While 15 to 20 percent of MS patients do very well, 50 to 70 percent need strong medicines to live a quality life. It is this uncertainty that has led Prof. Vaknin to start a biobank with which to study clinical outcomes for newly diagnosed patients. By identifying a set of proteins (biomarkers) within an individual's peripheral blood, Dr. Vaknin and her research team have been able to predict, for example, a patient's response to interferon, a common treatment for MS.

The past 15 years have seen the development of very effective medications to treat MS. Currently, Dr. Vaknin reports, there are 10 medications available, but their effectiveness varies from person to person. "There is also a limited time window to start treatment," Dr. Vaknin says, "because if you miss that window, some of the medicines are not very effective." There are, however, two new medications on the market, she notes, specifically designed to treat progressive MS.

One common thread in MS is the degeneration of myelin, the sheath that protects the nerve fibers. Dr. Vaknin is researching the ability of certain proteins, found in the fluid surrounding the brain, to renew damaged myelin. Being able to rebuild myelin in MS patients is only in the research stage--though she estimates that "it will happen in the next five years."

In the meantime, what advice does Dr. Vaknin have for those who suffer with MS? She recommends 2,000 units per day of Vitamin D--particularly found to be effective in preventing the occurrence of the disease in any offspring. Dr. Vaknin also suggests exercise and a healthy diet--and no smoking. She adds living a less stressful life to the list, but acknowledges that this "is not so easy to do."