



**November/December 2017**

**Danville**

The Danville Chapter of Hadassah had a wonderful meeting in September on Melanie Vaughan's porch, with a thought-provoking program provided by Jo Ann Howard on the "Then and Now" of our chapter which will celebrate 100 years of service in 2018! Our Angels of Mercy campaign is in its 68<sup>th</sup> year and continues to be our major fundraiser. We are one of the few chapters where most of our revenue comes from outside the Jewish community. The ladies who designed and implemented this campaign back in 1950 deserve much credit for thinking "outside the box" of our small Jewish community for raising funds for Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel. Our financial support of HMO remains critical so that its cutting edge medical research and care can continue.

October was again Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Hadassah supports this effort in numerous ways. HMO is conducting stem cell research in the hope of finding a cure for this disease. Cancer stem cells are sometimes resistant to radiation or chemotherapy, and Hadassah's researchers are working to detect the most aggressive breast cancer stem cells with a new set of biomarkers. Hopefully, a medical intervention can be found that will make these breast cancer stem cells more fully susceptible to chemotherapy.

An example of good will in the Middle East, thanks to an agreement of cooperation between the health ministries of Israel and Cyprus, a liver donated by a woman in Cyprus saved a young woman's life in Israel, with a transplant performed at Hadassah's Ein Kerem Hospital. Mutual organ donation can occur between the two countries when no suitable organ is found locally, so that more lives can be saved. This is a wonderful example of friendship between neighboring countries in that troubled region.

The days are growing shorter and colder and soon the holiday season will be upon us. Thanksgiving and the Feast of Lights and that other holiday are a time to rejoice with family and friends and to light one candle (or nine) rather than cursing the darkness. Please continue your support of Hadassah, a beacon of hope and healing that demonstrates "the power of women who do!"

Martha Woody, Danville Chapter President

**Danville Hadassah's**  
**Annual Hanukkah Celebration**  
December 13<sup>th</sup>  
235 Brandon Court



A flyer will be mailed out soon!

**Keeping Up with our Members**

**Joan Newman** celebrated her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Mazel Tov!

**Shandra Levey** gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Talia Naomi Levey on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Olga Lobl**, former Danville member, passed away on October 18<sup>th</sup> in Reseta, California at the age of 104.

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

**Did You Know This About Our Danville Chapter?**

The first meeting of the Danville Chapter was held in **1918**.

In 1948 the entire fiscal goal was **\$1,000**. Today it is over \$20,000.

1950 brought the **first Angels of Mercy campaign** raising \$1,589 with 168 ads and received recognition from the National President of Hadassah.

In 1954 a **fashion show** was held with local members and their children wearing Israeli clothing which was loaned for the fundraising event.

The first mention of **candle lighting** was in 1956.

There is more fascinating information to come next month!

## What's Happening with our Danville Projects



**Youth Aliyah** – It's in the mail! Your annual Youth Aliyah Birthday and Anniversary card list should arrive any day now. Read it over carefully, make your selections, and return your completed form and check to Chairman Susanne Singer. This is a easy way to remember family and friends who have been included on the list, while at the same time supporting the Youth Aliyah programs and villages. Thank you ahead of time for your generosity!



**Angels of Mercy** – We're ready to go to press with our Angels of Mercy thank you ad which recognizes all of our donors – businesses and personals. Watch this space in our next newsletter to find out how much money we were able to raise for our Hadassah hospitals.



**New Year Card 5778** – A big thank you goes to our chairman Denise Johnson for taking on this chairmanship. Denise lives in Florida and despite the fact that she was evacuated due to the hurricane, the cards were out in time for Rosh Hashanah! Thank you also to the 35 participating families who helped to make this another successful project.



**Candle Lighting** - 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 to honor and/or remember family and friends. Send your check to Jo Ann Howard, Treasurer, 326 Rosemary Lane, Danville, VA 24541.



**Life Membership** – What a wonderful way to share Hadassah! Make a family member or friend a member for life! **The cost is still only \$250.** Contact Jo Ann Howard today via email or call her at 434-799-3505.

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

HADASSAH



### **New NICU at Hadassah: First of Its Kind in Israel**

Tiny

patients with big problems are now being treated in the new Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem—the first of its kind in Israel.

The newest addition to Hadassah's Neonatology Department, located in the Charlotte R. Bloomberg Mother and Child Center, the innovative NICU combines advanced technology with private rooms and dedicated multidisciplinary health care professionals, including a nutritionist and physical therapist. Most babies admitted to the NICU are premature, have low birth rates, and/or special conditions that need immediate specialized care. Typically, they are so small you could hold each one in your palm--if they weren't attached to so many tubes and life-saving devices.

The new eight-bed NICU doesn't just provide space and protection from infection to these at-risk newborns. It also allows parents to be integral parts of their care, explains NICU Director Prof. Smadar Eventov-Friedman. "Bonding with a sick infant is crucial," says Prof. Eventov-Friedman. "Parents need to be close at hand for feeding and bathing and to become part of the baby's care from the beginning." Therefore, in addition to the complex machinery, such as mechanical ventilators and monitors for every life function, there's an easy chair for mom and dad plus a small refrigerator to store supplements for the baby.

When Prof. Eventov-Friedman was a medical student, she relates, few of these babies would have had a chance of surviving. But the huge leaps in neonatal care have enabled sophisticated interventions that save babies' lives and give them quality of life. "A child born with low weight or the need for surgical or subspecialist intervention has as good a chance of survival at Hadassah as in any top medical center in the world," she says.

Hadassah's Neonatology Department includes well-baby care and two intensive care units—the other, at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus. Close to 13,000 babies were born at Hadassah last year. While the vast majority are healthy and go home in two days, because Hadassah is a referral center for high-risk pregnancy, there is a spiraling need for intensive care, explains Dr. Benjamin Bar-Oz, head of the Neonatology Department.

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### **Hadassah's Fetal Medicine Specialist on the Cover of Forbes**

Dr. Yuval Gielchinsky, Hadassah Medical Organization's fetal medicine specialist, appears on the cover of *Forbes Israel Magazine*, in recognition of his lifesaving interventions with babies in utero. The issue of *Forbes* is dedicated to the best doctors in Israel. Whether it is a fetus with a life-threatening heart problem or crippling spina bifida, or twins with a faulty blood supply, Dr. Gielchinsky performs the miraculous procedures that ensure these babies a better quality of life—or life at all.