

## Welcome Message from the Council Chair

Shalom Chaverim,

This is a momentous time for nurses!

Today, May 12, is International Nurses Day, which concludes a week celebrating nurses that began with National Nurses Day on May 6. International Nurses Day was designated to fall on the birthday of Florence Nightingale, born in 1820, who is considered to be the founder of modern nursing. She greatly influenced 19th and 20th century policies for proper medical care. She was known for her nightly rounds and was dubbed the “Lady with the Lamp”.

Not only that, but the World Health Organization (WHO) has designated 2020 the Year of the Nurse and Midwife to highlight our contributions to world health. At the time that designation was announced, little did any of us know how invaluable nurses would soon become to the entire world.

In light of recent events with the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become appropriate to say thank you to all nurses around the world for their tireless, selfless bravery in keeping people safe and healthy. I encourage you to visit Hadassah's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages to see the many beautiful messages of support that have been posted there. In this, our spring newsletter, you'll read some stories of the heroic work of our nurses right now. It will fill your heart with pride.

We will continue to be there to hold patients' hands and help them through this pandemic and beyond, on the road to recovery or to help them go peacefully. That is our calling, and it is now more needed than ever.

With warmest wishes,

Susan Lafer, RN  
Chair, Hadassah Nurses & Allied Health Professionals Council





## Israeli Nurse of the Year Prize Goes to Hadassah NICU Head Nurse

The babies are so small you could hold them in the palm of your hand if they weren't attached to so many wires and monitors. Their challenges, however, are huge. Born prematurely, these tiny infants require specialized care and nurturing. Their parents are distraught and scared. Their caregivers, the specially trained nurses in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus, suffer from stress and burnout.

Daphna Hyvroni not only provides the technical skills and compassion needed in her role as head nurse of the NICU but also offers emotional support to the 50 people on her team as they work to keep the babies alive.

Read more about her incredible work [here](#).

### More Hadassah Nurses in the News:

- ["Women Are Magical," Says Hadassah Hospital Midwife](#)
- [Six Hadassah Nurses to Watch](#)
- [From the Army to a COVID-19 Unit: A Hadassah Nurse on the Front Lines](#)
- [Hadassah's Arabic-Speaking Nurses Seek to Keep People Safe During Ramadan](#)

### A Message from the Front Lines:

*HMO Nurse Tamar Madeson shared her thoughts from Hadassah Hospital on Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and her story went viral in Israel. Here is an excerpt:*

"I find myself supporting a stroke victim in her 80s, too weak to stand alone. She murmurs throughout the siren, 'We will neither forget nor forgive.' As she sinks to her armchair, she embraces me. How can I begin to explain to her how grateful I am that we are together in these moments? That this is one of the few hugs I've had this past month. That it fills me with so much strength.

"I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the unique individuals I've met during the last few days: The head nurse who inspires me with her sensitivity, professionalism, flexibility, dynamism, the constant adjustments she makes and instills in us in this biological war, all the while remaining collected and optimistic and fostering a spirit of togetherness. The nurses I meet from the various hospital departments who volunteer for the corona unit. That sense of togetherness they forge ...

"I'm amazed by the patients – some whom only yesterday were exhausted, requiring oxygen are making drinks for other patients, replacing fallen blankets, accompanying those who appear lonely in the lounge. Here friendships are created amid a sense of shared destiny. There's compassion, tenderness, tones that move my very being. I feel it in the ward. I feel it looking at the screen in the control room. These are moments of beauty and human prosperity I will keep with me for the rest of my days."

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## Member Spotlight: Abby Siegel

*Abby Siegel, who has worked at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, NY for 30 years, tells us of her experiences working in the ICU in this time of COVID-19:*

I work 12-hour nights. That is my regular shift. Almost every unit is a COVID ICU. I have between two and four critically ill patients *each night*. As the virus attacks the lungs, they are intubated on ventilators, and also on IV medications to maintain their blood pressure, a blood thinner, antibiotics, as well as other meds to keep them sedated and comfortable. They have many IVs including a central line placed in their subclavian vein, a large access in the neck, and also an arterial line in the wrist which gives us an easy way to draw blood and monitor BP every second. We monitor urine output and blood sugars and blood gases. Medications are constantly being titrated to get the desired outcome. When their kidneys fail, they need dialysis.

I've been married for 14 years to Alan Honig. We live in Congers, NY, near Rockland Lake State Park. We both have two girls each from our previous marriages. My husband and children are nervous for my health. But they also know I'm a nurse and that this is simply what I do.

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## **Webinar Recap: Understanding Coronavirus**

With COVID-19 on everyone's mind, the Nurses & Allied Health Professionals Council, along with the Physicians Council, organized a webinar for all members titled "Understanding Coronavirus." The speaker was Hadassah member Dr. Jo-Ann Harris, a consultant in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, who works at the Overland Park Regions Medical Center. Around 300 people watched, as Dr. Harris provided clear and concise information about COVID-19, and the participants were able to ask questions

about the pandemic. You can view the recording [here](#).

## **Webinar Recap: Eating Disorders in Jewish Communities**

On Monday, May 4, the Nurses & Allied Health Professionals Council hosted a webinar on "Eating Disorders in Jewish Communities." It was conducted by the council's very own Janice Baker, who is a registered dietitian/nutritionist and certified diabetes care and education specialist. She touched on what an eating disorder is, who suffers from it, what causes it, types of disorders, treatments and the importance of having a positive relationship with food, all with an eye on Jewish perspectives. You can view the recording [here](#).





## Celebrating Our Inspiring History

*In honor of National Nurses Week and WHO Year of the Nurse and Midwife, Past National President Nancy Falchuk reflects on Hadassah's roots in nursing and the inspiring origin, history, and achievements of the Professional Nurses Council:*

The Nurses Council is an excellent example of a Hadassah Outreach that worked successfully. It produced professional and passionate leaders thereby fulfilling the needs of this Member population.

Today, 30 years later, we've run more than 15 nursing educational missions to Israel, helped establish a new nursing PHD/nurse practitioner program, witnessed the establishment of the first Department of Nursing at the Hebrew University, supported essential ICU/OR educational programs and created and funded international nursing educational opportunities, to name just a few achievements.

It is with tremendous respect for the wisdom of Henrietta Szold and our National leaders back in 1913 that today, 30 years later, nurses in America and in Israel are valued as an indispensable and admired professional part of the healthcare team. The leaders of HWZOA in 1913 had the vision that educated nurses would be vital to the health of a nation. 107 years later, in 2020, the International Year of the Nurse, that vision is as vital today as it was then.

"We've Come a Long Way, Baby."

Read her entire story [here](#).

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## How You Can Help

### Support Our HMO Nurses

At this time when HMO nurses are working so hard and such long hours, you can offer them comfort and support through our Nurse 2 Nurse initiative. Read more and make your donation [here](#).



### Make Your Voice Heard

In the US, our nurses and healthcare workers are in dire need of adequate and reliable personal protective equipment (PPE) and other resources and support. You can [contact your elected official to voice your support](#) for them. Making your voice heard truly makes a difference.

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Visit the Nurses & Allied Health Professionals Council on [Facebook](#).

Email us at [nursesandalliedhealthprofessionals@hadassah.org](mailto:nursesandalliedhealthprofessionals@hadassah.org).

[www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org)

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