**WHO WE ARE**

Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer organization that inspires a passion for and commitment to its partnership with the land and people of Israel. It enhances the health of people worldwide through its support of medical care and research at the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem. Hadassah empowers its members and supporters, as well as youth in Israel and America through opportunities for personal growth, education, advocacy and Jewish continuity.

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**HADASSAH NORTHEAST PRESENTS**

**Standing with Israel in 2018: Challenges and Opportunities**

Please join us for a dynamic presentation to learn:

• The facts about Israel
• How to advocate for Israel
• How to use social media to influence the narrative about Israel

Presenters include representatives from:

• StandWithUs
• Israel Advocacy Alliance
• Israeli American Council

Please join us for this free presentation at the location that is most convenient for you:

**July 25 at 1:00 pm**
Plymouth Public Library
Plymouth, Mass.

**September 6 at 7:00 pm**
Temple Emanuel
Andover, Mass.

**September 27 at 7:00 pm**
Jewish Community Center of the North Shore
Marblehead, Mass.

**October 4 at 7:00 pm**
Temple Beth El
Springfield, Mass.

**October 21 at 1:00 pm**
Dwares JCC
Providence, R.I.

**October 28**
9:30 am refreshments
10:00 am program
Beth Tikvah Synagogue
Westborough, Mass.

**November 28 at 7:45 pm**
Temple Emanuel
Newton, Mass.

Everyone is welcome to attend this program, but registration in advance is required.

To register, please visit www.hadassah.org/events/standwithisrael or contact Hadassah Northeast at 781-455-9055 or hne@hadassah.org.
Dear Hadassah Friends,

LET’S MAKE 5779 A BANNER YEAR FOR HADASSAH!

While we are enjoying the last gasp of summer, we are also busy planning exciting Hadassah activities for next year. We have been doing a lot of reflection and analysis on the past year and thinking about how to make next year an unbelievable experience, while raising much needed funds for Hadassah. We are so grateful for your participation on this incredible Hadassah journey.

We have many truly amazing achievements to celebrate: Israel’s 70th Anniversary, and the 100th anniversaries of Hadassah Medical Organization, the Hadassah School of Nursing and the Hadassah School of Ophthalmology are just a few.

In this bulletin, you'll also read about fantastic region and chapter activities throughout Hadassah Northeast. Please note the cover program called **Standing with Israel in 2018: Challenges and Opportunities**. We developed this highly relevant program in conjunction with StandWithUs, The Israeli American Council and the Israel Advocacy Alliance to better present the Israeli narrative when faced with anti-Israel or anti-Semitic statements. Please register to attend the program most convenient for you and your friends.

As you are reflecting on the New Year, please consider making Hadassah a more meaningful part of your life in 5779. Here are some ideas:

- **Come to Hadassah events.** Sign up for e-newsletters, follow us on Facebook and check out your region’s website. Remember that you are always welcome to attend Hadassah events sponsored by any chapter or region. It is a terrific way to meet other Hadassah members and enjoy new experiences.

- **Get involved with a Hadassah professional council** like the Nurses Council, Physicians Council and Attorneys Council to network and support Hadassah through professional activities.

- **If you have an intriguing idea for an event, contact your chapter or region leadership. Volunteer** to chair an event or join a committee, short or long-term. We want you involved!

- **Bring a friend** when you participate in Hadassah events. Most events are suitable for everyone.

- **Join us on a Hadassah Mission to Israel** – seeing our projects in person lends new meaning to the work we do at home. If you have never been to Israel, this is the way to go!

- **Make a donation** to support Hadassah's extraordinary work being done across the globe. Be sure to pay close attention to the amazing work that is being done for Hadassah's **360 Degree Campaign**.

- **Make sure we have your current email address.** If you do not get emails from us, it means we do not have your email and you are missing out on a lot of exciting Hadassah news and events. Please contact Hadassah at 781-455-9055 or hne@hadassah.org as soon as possible.

It is our privilege and honor to lead Hadassah and the thousands of amazing members in Hadassah Northeast. The work we do locally impacts people globally and we look forward to making the world a better place – **b’ychad** (together) - in 5779 and beyond.

*L’shanah tovah tikateiv v’tichateimu.* May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year.

Joan Astor, Co-president, Hadassah Southern New England
Paula London, Co-president, Hadassah Southern New England
Debbie Knight, President, Hadassah Boston
Rhonda Saunders, President, Hadassah Northern New England
Hadassah Northeast Hosts Ruth Radiano, Director of Nursing at Hadassah Mount Scopus

Hadassah Northeast hosted Ruth Radiano, Director of Nursing at Hadassah Mount Scopus in Jerusalem, as part of the nationwide Hadassah Nurses Tour recently. Ruth is an accomplished nurse who helped develop the Medical Clown Program, started the first pediatric AIDS clinic in Israel and has held several senior leadership positions at Hadassah Hospitals.

Ruth inspired audiences at three events with stories of humanity, healing and medical breakthroughs at Hadassah Medical Organization.

Hadassah Northeast Young Women’s Council Hosts Sarri Singer for Brunch

On Sunday, March 4, Hadassah Young Women’s Council enjoyed a delicious brunch at West on Centre in West Roxbury, to network with like-minded women, learn about the amazing work Hadassah is doing around the world and listen to a moving talk by Sarri Singer. Sarri was the victim of a terrorist attack while living in Jerusalem and was treated at Hadassah Hospital. Her inspiring story captivated everyone who attended. Everyone had fun, new friends were made and a love for Hadassah was born! If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of the Young Women’s Council, please email Paula London at plondon@hadassah.org.
Hadassah Northeast Hosts First-Ever Women’s Advocacy Conference

Hadassah Northeast hosted its first-ever Women’s Advocacy Conference on December 3 at the Babson College Executive Conference Center with over 100 people in attendance. The day began with an Advocacy Information Fair and refreshments, followed by a panel discussion moderated by award-winning author and WHDH-TV investigative reporter, Hank Phillippi Ryan.

The Conference was aptly named “Discover the Power of Your Voice,” as breakout sessions featured four accomplished and inspiring women: Rabbi Lila Kagedan, the first Orthodox female rabbi and medical ethicist; Leslie Weiner Alger, a sought-after executive coach and founder of Advocates for Israel; Connie Freeman, team leader for advocacy in the PRAZE Division of Hadassah National; and Sheila Horvitz, Esq., a lawyer and domestic violence advocate.

While attendees enjoyed lunch, the keynote address was delivered by Massachusetts State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg. Treasurer Goldberg discussed how proud she was to be a fifth-generation member of Hadassah and how her grandmother went to Palestine in 1920 to work with Henrietta Szold, the founder of Hadassah.

Conference Chair Sharon Katz, and the entire committee, did an extraordinary job organizing the Conference. Participants came away from the event enthused, along with the tools needed to advocate for many causes related to women’s health, domestic violence and support for Israel.

Hadassah Boston’s Nancy Falchuk Honored at Women’s Health and Advocacy Conference

Nancy Falchuk, Hadassah National and Boston Past President, was honored at the Touch of Red Gala as part of Hadassah’s Women’s Health and Advocacy Conference. Said Hadassah National President Ellen Hershkin, “We honor two nurses who mean so much to Hadassah and have done so much for the nursing profession in the US and Israel, Passion to Action Honorees Dr. Barbara Heller and Nancy Falchuk.”
Hadassah Northeast at Women’s Health Empowerment Summit and Advocacy Conference

Hadassah hosted the 2018 Women's Health and Advocacy Conference May 15-17 in Washington, D.C. The Conference featured the 2nd Annual Women’s Health Empowerment Summit, a Chai Tea event that included an address from U.S. Ambassador to Israel Ron Dermer, and a Touch of Red Gala that included honoring Hadassah National Past President and Hadassah Boston member Nancy Falchuk.

The Conference concluded with a Day on the Hill where members advocated for a variety of issues to the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

Hadassah Northeast was well-represented at the Conference.

Kelly Scibelli, Hadassah National Zionist Affairs Team Leader
Sue Polansky, Judith Nishman, Hadassah Northern New England President
Rhonda Saunders and Rosalind Kopfstein

Hadassah/ JWRP Mission Returns

Hadassah Northeast partnered with the Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project and sent nine women on a special mission to Israel July 10-19. Some of the sites they visited include the Meir Shfaya Youth Aliyah Village and Hadassah Hospital. Pictured here are the nine women floating in the Dead Sea. This mission requires a yearlong commitment with pre- and post-trip meetings, as well as special Hadassah activities in local chapters.

The Trip of a Lifetime

Enter a drawing to win a FREE land package for any Hadassah Mission to Israel in 2018 or 2019. Valued up to $4,000, based on double occupancy. Must be used by December 2019. Winner will be announced as soon as we receive 100 entries. Each entry is $50.

Please call Hadassah at 781-455-9055 or return the form below with a check or credit card to Hadassah Northeast, Land Package Entry, 1320 Centre Street #205, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

Name
Email
Credit Card (circle one): Visa M/C AMEX Credit Card #
Exp. Date Security Code
Signature

Please note: Each winner will be mailed a travel package by the Hadassah Office. No cash refunds will be made.
Celebrate HMO@100 with a Meaningful Major Gift Today!

S
aving lives, advancing medical research, and benefitting people all over the world – those are the impacts of a major gift to the Hadassah Medical Organization. In this celebratory year of HMO’s 100th anniversary, we want to share some wonderful giving opportunities for you to consider. Whether your gift is a new major gift pledge, a step-up to a new major gift level or a first-time major gift, your generous donation will make a difference.

• If you have been donating to Hadassah on a regular basis for years, you may be closer to becoming a major donor ($5,000) than you think! Simply add a new gift to your cumulative giving to date. Just ask us what your cumulative giving is at present and what level pledge will help you achieve a new giving recognition.

• “Lighting the Way” is a wonderful way to leave a legacy within the walls of the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower. For $5,000, payable over 1 to 3 years, your name or the name of a loved one can be up in lights.

• Designated research gifts help to ensure the continuation of groundbreaking research throughout the medical world. Distinguished naming opportunities begin at $5,000.

• Become a Hadassah Founder with a gift of $36,000, payable over 3 years. And if you are under 46 years of age, you can become a Young Founder with a pledge of $15,000, payable over 5 years.

• All gifts can be made as outright gifts/pledges of cash or stock. Or ask us about other options, such as gift annuities.

• Check to see if your employer or your spouse’s employer matches donations to HADASSAH. This is a simple way to double your donation and make an even greater impact.

If you have any questions, need additional information, or would like to discuss a personal pledge, please contact Brianna Nadelberg, Director of Development for Hadassah Northeast, at bnadelberg@hadassah.org or call (781) 652-0279.

And of course, please always feel free to reach out to one of us, your Hadassah Northeast Major Gifts Chairs:

Hadassah Northern New England: Louise Borke, at louiseborke@gmail, or Josie Kivort, at jkivort@hadassah.org

Hadassah Southern New England: Lorraine Rappoport, at lrappoport@me.com

Hadassah Boston: Susan Lewin, at slewin300@aol.com

from Passion to Action
HADASSAH CELEBRATION 2018
The Fix

Over 50 Hadassah members and friends attended the Hadassah Shalom meeting on August 15 to hear Sharon Leder, author of the novel The Fix, speak about the opioid crisis in general and in the Jewish community. It was a great event and thank you to everyone who came out!

Calendar 2018

Northern New England

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 pm - Standing With Israel in 2018: Challenges and Opportunities; Temple Emanuel, Andover, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>11 am - 6 pm - Shalom, Peabody International Festival - Kugel sale fundraiser</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Shawsheen Valley Opener - Mitchneck Sukkah, Lowell, MA; details TBD</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>7 pm - Standing With Israel in 2018: Challenges and Opportunities; at the JCC, Marblehead, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>11 am - Nashoba Valley Membership Kickoff Brunch with author Jenna Blum, Boxboro Regency, Boxboro, MA</td>
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October

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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11 am – Merrimack Valley, Membership Kickoff Bagel Brunch and The Sturgeon Queens movie, Andover, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Shawsheen Valley – Donor; details TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Nashoba Valley Fundraiser; details TBD</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>NNE Associates Israeli Innovation Brunch program, HNE office, Newton Centre, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>6 pm – Arlington/Lexington Annual Donor Dinner featuring Brandeis University professor Steve Whitfield speaking about “The Century of Leonard Bernstein,” Tuscan Kitchen, Burlington, MA</td>
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November

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shalom, Annual Donor Dinner – Featuring Cantor Idan Irelander, Angelica’s Restaurant, Middleton, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>SAVE THE DATE - NNE Luncheon honoring an exceptional Hadassah leader with special guest speaker</td>
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December

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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Hadassah Northern New England Region Installation</td>
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<td>17-24</td>
<td>Hadassah Capital District – Gift Wrapping in Crossgates Mall in Albany, NY</td>
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Nashoba Valley Member Sarah Elgart Honored as Hadassah National “Member of the Month”

Hadassah Northern New England has one of its members, Sarah Elgart, named National Hadassah “Member of the Month.” Sarah is a member of Hadassah Nashoba Valley and resides in Somerville, Mass. Sarah graduated from the Yale School of Nursing in 2013, and has been a Nurse Practitioner at Fenway Health, a community health center dedicated to serving the LGBT community, since 2015. Her clinical interests included family medicine, HIV care, women’s health and transgender care.

A member of the Hadassah Nurses Council, Sarah said “I am inspired by Hadassah’s efforts to connect healthcare professionals internationally, and develop and apply evidence-based medicine to combat varying acute and chronic medical issues.”

NH4Israel’s Second Annual Run/Walk

DERRY, N.H. – Members of the Hadassah Manchester Chapter participated in the NH4Israel’s Second Annual Run/Walk for Healing on Sunday, April 22 in Derry, NH. The event raised $5,000 for genetic research on ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) being done at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. There were 150 participants at the lively event that featured Israeli music, food, prizes and the ice bucket challenge.

Hadassah Manchester distributed pamphlets, answered questions, and sold Hadassah greeting cards at the event.

Michele Bank, Hadassah Manchester President, said “We are very grateful to NH4Israel for their successful effort to raise funds benefitting Hadassah Medical Organization’s (HMO) genetic research in ALS. This was a wonderful opportunity to share information about Hadassah’s commitment to Israel, their ground-breaking medical research and humanitarian medical care provided in Israel and globally.”

Last year’s NH4Israel event raised money for HMO’s Emergency Response Team.

Northern New England Earth Day Concert

Hadassah Northern New England presented an Earth Day Concert on Sunday, April 22. Funds were raised to benefit the Hadassah Associates’ Men’s Health Initiative-Alzheimer’s Disease Research at Hadassah Hospital. Thank you to Michael Finegold and The Essex Chamber Music Players for beautiful music and thanks also to all who attended, joined Hadassah and donated to Hadassah.
HADASSAH BOSTON

HAPPENINGS

Cape Cod Brunch

Thank you to everyone who came to our Cape Cod Brunch on July 29! Over 80 people gathered at the beautiful New Seabury Country Club in Mashpee for a wonderful brunch. Our featured speaker was comedian and scholar Riva Ginsburg, who had everyone in stitches with her discussion about Jewish and Yiddish humor.

Calendar 2018

Boston

SEPTEMBER

16 7 pm - Chic on the Cheap, Plato’s Closet, 100 River Street, Waltham
26-27 Celebrate Sukkot with Hadassah, Newton or Brookline

NOVEMBER

1 7:30 pm - “A Latin American Pen, A Global Memory: Imagining Anne Frank Today,” JCC of Greater Boston, Newton
13 Presentation with Boston Globe Advice Columnist Meredith Goldstein, author of Can’t Help Myself – Lessons and Confessions from a Modern Advice Columnist
28 7:45 pm - Standing with Israel, Temple Emanuel, Newton, Mass.

Cape Cod Brunch committee members, left to right: Chana Meyer, Hadassah Boston President Debbie Knight, Linda Cohen, Committee Chair Arlene Rand, guest speaker Riva Ginsburg, Sharon Steinberg, Mady Donoff and Susan Benjamin

Chic on the Cheap

PLATO’S CLOSET

Sunday, September 16
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Plato’s Closet
100 River St., Waltham

Visit at platoscloset.com/waltham

Hear from store owner and Hadassah member Sara Coen Dash on her business decision to minimize toxins (that are linked to breast cancer) in her store.

To register for this FREE event, visit http://www.hadassah.org/events/platoscloset or email hne@hadassah.org.

*At Plato’s Closet you’ll find a huge selection of trendy designer styles as well as those everyday basics you can’t live without - all at up to 70% off mall prices!

Celebrate Sukkot with Hadassah

Wednesday, September 26
Thursday, September 27

Celebrate in the afternoon and evening on Wednesday at two different homes in Newton, or on Thursday in the morning and evening at two different homes in Brookline!

You choose the time and location that works best for you! Each location will offer scrumptious sukkot goodies, an engaging activity, and must of all, a fabulious company!

More details with sign up coming soon!

SPACE IS LIMITED!
Hadassah Boston hosted a Celebratory Brunch on Sunday, April 29, to honor the Powerful Women of Hadassah. The special guest was Alice Rossiter Lewis of Alice’s Table, who competed on the well-known TV show “Shark Tank,” and secured two investors from the show.

Alice gave a flower arranging class while attendees enjoyed a delicious brunch. To see pictures from the event, check out our Facebook page!

Alice Rossiter displaying her flower arrangement at the Celebratory Brunch

Hadassah Boston was presented with the 2018 Research in Service to Humanity Award for our successful ‘Nice T!ts’ program last November. ‘Nice T!ts’ is a one-woman autobiographical play performed by Amy Marcs about her journey through breast cancer. The event included a panel discussion moderated by Kelley Tuthill, and featured Heather Parsons, MD, MPH, and Jessica Erdman-Sager, MD.

The Hadassah Boston Spring Salon Group studied “Jewish Women in Moslem Societies.”
Mah Jongg Madness

We had a great crowd at our Mah Jongg Madness event on August 14 at Waterstone at the Circle! The dinner and mah jongg made for a wonderful evening.

Not Your Bubbe’s Seder

Hadassah Boston hosted “Not Your Bubbe’s Seder” on March 21 at Temple Beth Avodah in Newton. The sold-out event featured storytelling, dancing, singing, praying and creating mosaic artwork. Attendees enjoyed socializing and honoring the Seder plate! A great time was had by all!

Visit www.hadassah.org/regions/boston for the latest announcements, event information, newsletters and more.
Hadassah Needham Member Sells Over Quarter Million Dollars’ Worth of Cards

Harriet Binder, a Hadassah Needham Life Member, is a tree- and card-selling expert. She has sold them at various events and during the holidays for over 40 years. Her Mother’s Day cards are her best-selling and said that she gets a lot of repeat customers. Harriet said, “If you do something, do it the best way you can.” Harriet certainly has. Thanks for all your hard work, Harriet!

Harriet Binder has sold over $250,000 worth of Hadassah cards and certificates.
Save the Date

Please join us
for dinner as we honor Hadassah Worcester Life Member and The Honorable Senator Harriette Chandler for her decades of public service.

Sunday, September 16, 2018
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Union Station
Worcester

Special Guest:
Dr. Janice Weinman,
CEO and Executive Director, Hadassah

Union Station, located at Washington Square in downtown Worcester and one of the Commonwealth's most beautiful structures, underwent a magnificent restoration in 1998-1999. Today, the facilities include a bus and train station as well as the Grand Hall, with original elliptical stained-glass ceilings, interior marble columns and mahogany wood trim.
Chair of HMO Visits Orchard Cove

Rachel Schonberger, M.D., Chair of Hadassah Medical Organization, visited Hadassah Northeast and discussed some of the groundbreaking research and cutting-edge treatment from Hadassah Hospital in Israel. One of her stops included an audience of over 100 people at Orchard Cove in Canton.

Left to right: Hadassah Orchard Cove President Helene Burke, Hadassah National Keepers of the Gate Chair Susan Shikora, Dr. Rachel Schonberger, Hadassah Southern New England President Joan Astor.

Your annual gift can transform a life.

It has the power to mend a broken body, advance medical research, provide a future for at-risk children, or advocate for women and Israel in the US.

Chai Society gifts from $15/month.
Keepers of the Gate gifts from $33/month.

We welcome all members, Associates and Hadassah supporters to invest in the future of Israel and medicine by joining Hadassah’s Annual Giving Societies.

hadassah.org/keepers hadassah.org/chaisociety 800.928.0688

HADASSAH THE WOMEN’S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, INC.
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Sign up to receive Hadassah E-Newsletters by going to bit.ly/hadassahsignup or contact us at hne@hadassah.org with your name and email address.
8th Annual Books on the Beach

The Eighth Annual Books on the Beach was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who attended and we look forward to seeing you next year!

Needham Donor Dinner Features Life is Good Company President

The Hadassah Needham Chapter held its annual Donor Dinner on May 3 at Temple Beth Shalom in Needham. The guest speaker for the evening was Lisa Tanzer, President of the Life is Good company.

Lisa spoke about Life is Good and the Life is Good Kids Foundation, and how optimism can positively impact your life and the lives of others.

The chapter also awarded its “Woman of the Year” award to Kim Silverman.

The packed audience had delicious food and drink, and a great time!

Hadassah National Past President Marlene Post (second from left) with the Books on the Beach planning committee.

Hadassah National Past President Marlene Post was the guest speaker and Tova Mirvis and Rachel Kadish the featured authors for the Eighth Annual Books on Beach hosted by Hadassah Rhode Island on August 7. The sold-out event at OceanCliff in Newport, RI, was a wonderful time with beautiful weather at a great venue. Thanks to everyone who came out!

Follow Hadassah Southern New England on Facebook
HADASSAH MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM

Help Hadassah grow our revenue.
It’s as easy as 1-2-3!

STEP 1: Contact your Human Resource Department. Your employer probably has a verification process already in place and will instruct you on their procedures.

STEP 2: Complete the paperwork required by your employer. You may be able to do this online — check with your HR department. Here’s the information your employer is likely to require:

- Hadassah’s tax ID #13-1656651
- Hadassah National | 40 Wall Street | New York, NY 10005
- Your donation amount

STEP 3: Once you have completed your paperwork, mail the documents to:
Hadassah, Attn: Matching Gifts, P.O. Box 1100, New York, NY 10268-1100

If your employer has an automated or online process, please forward your form to donorservices@hadassah.org and use Matching Gifts as the subject line.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER STEPS 1–2–3:

- Upon receipt of the donation and information about the match, Hadassah will confirm your donation, and then send your company the verification it requires.
- Your company will process, approve, and remit a check.
- Upon receipt of the matching gift from your company, Hadassah will update your record and credit your local unit. Please note that companies have different time frames for remitting their funds to Hadassah, which can take anywhere from a few weeks to several months.

If Hadassah is not on the approved list of your company’s matching gifts program, or your company denies matching your gift for any reason, contact Matching Gifts at Hadassah (800-928-0685) to investigate your company’s Matching Gift program inclusion requirements.
THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER
MAKE A TAX-SMART GIFT TO SUPPORT HADASSAH

If you are 70½ OR OLDER, you can make a “rollover” gift from your IRA directly to Hadassah (up to $100,000 each year).

YOUR BENEFITS:
Support Hadassah’s lifesaving mission today. Use the funds to make a new gift to Hadassah, fulfill a pledge, or make your Keeper’s gift.

Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD). If you have not already satisfied your RMD, you can satisfy all or part of that requirement and make a gift to Hadassah at the same time.

Save on taxes. The funds are not recognized as income for federal income tax purposes. So you can enjoy tax benefits and still support Hadassah, even if you do not itemize your deductions.

Contact Bryce Diamond at 212-303-8107 or bdiamond@hadassah.org for more information about making an IRA charitable rollover gift.

The information and content contained herein are intended for educational purposes only and are not intended to provide legal, tax or other professional advice or to be relied upon. We encourage you to consult with an attorney, tax advisor or accountant.

HADASSAH THE WOMEN’S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, INC.
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New Hadassah Policy Statements

Delegates to the Hadassah National Assembly debated and unanimously passed new Hadassah Policy Statements on unwavering support for Israel, gun control and medical marijuana.

Unwavering Support of Israel

In celebration of its 70th year of independence, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. (HWZOA), reaffirms its commitment to the State of Israel. We celebrate our efforts of practical Zionism which helped to build the State of Israel, and pledge to continue our important work of Tikkun Olam.

HWZOA reasserts its staunch support for Israel’s sovereignty and security, and urges all nations and leaders to speak out for Israel’s right to defend itself against all threats that endanger the safety and security of Israeli citizens.

We commend the abiding relationship between the United States and Israel, and encourage increased cooperation initiatives in: technology, security, medicine, the arts, and culture.

We value the importance of advocating on a federal level for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. The friendship between our two countries is never taken for granted, and we as American citizens represent a bi-partisan commitment between two democracies with shared values.

HWZOA encourages our Members, Associates, and supporters to stand with Israel, especially in times of crisis, by contacting their elected officials, attending community rallies and programs in support of Israel, studying Zionism, getting more involved in Hadassah’s activities, and buying Israeli products.

Gun Control

Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc. deplores the on-going scourge of shootings plaguing our schools, workplaces and communities nationwide. We believe that the widespread availability of, and easy access to, firearms significantly escalates this violence.

Hadassah has long been a strong supporter of strict legislative gun control initiatives and believes that current laws do not go far enough, nor are enforced rigorously enough, to help prevent gun violence.

Therefore, Hadassah reaffirms and expands the scope of the original 1981 gun control policy statement, which urged additional federal and state legislation to provide stronger gun control laws. Hadassah urges Congress and state legislatures to immediately enact stronger gun control legislation, including a ban on assault weapons, and ensuring more consistent enforcement of current laws, that will protect our communities and our nation. Specific legislative changes that Hadassah supports include: raising the minimum age for purchase of a firearm from 18 to 21, requiring a mandatory waiting period for purchase, implementing universal background checks, and mandatory seizure of household guns when an emergency restraining order is issued for domestic violence.
First in Israel: Hadassah Uses Innovative Technology to Treat Cancer in Spine

A multidisciplinary team at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem recently employed an innovative technology to treat cancer metastases near the spinal cord – a first for Israel.

The new surgical radio-spinal treatment, carried out in a specialized radiation treatment unit in Hadassah’s oncology department, is performed with the help of state-of-the-art Spine SRS software, designed by Germany’s Brainlab for the precise treatment of cancer metastases near the spinal cord. It enables the physician to match MRI and CAT scan images within an accuracy of less than one millimeter.

“This level of accuracy is a revolution in itself, since the accepted standard up to now has been three millimeters in the cervical spine and six in the lumbar spine,” relates Dr. Amichay Meirovitz, who led the procedure and is head of the Focused and Stereotactic Radiotherapy Unit at Hadassah. “This increases accuracy by more than three to four times relative to previous techniques,” he says.

Dr. Meirovitz reports that Spine SRS was received at Hadassah immediately after its launch in Germany, and that “Hadassah is the only hospital in the Middle East to use this software in a clinical setting.” In addition, Hadassah’s patients are among the first in the world to be treated with this new technology.

Thanks to the precision of this spinal radiation treatment, physicians can give a single dose of higher level radiation that is more effective in treating the disease, with low risk of harming nearby vital organs, such as the spinal cord and kidneys. The procedure, done in cooperation with Hadassah’s departments of neurosurgery and imaging, also has another advantage, according to Dr. Meirovitz. It enables the physician to avoid surgical procedures that could endanger the patient or impair the patient’s quality of life. The procedure also enables the patient to recover in a short period of time, with a minimum stay in the hospital.

This new technology, Dr. Meirovitz reports, is suitable for patients with isolated spinal metastases, as opposed to patients with multiple metastases. The latter are best suited for other therapeutic options. In some cases, when the tumor is too close to the spinal cord, a preliminary surgery is needed in order to distance the tumor from the spinal cord, and only then this innovative treatment can be used.

Medical Marijuana

The American health care system frequently fails to address patient’s specific health care needs. As an organization committed to the advancement of world class medical research at the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) in Israel, Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc. stands with doctors and patients calling for the federal legalization of medical marijuana.

HMO is at the forefront of groundbreaking cannabis research, as one of its physicians, Dr. Raphael Mechoulam pioneered the re-isolation of cannabidiol (CBD), a major nonpsychoactive compound in cannabis. It has been used in Israel to treat epilepsy, inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis symptoms, and sugar levels for Diabetes I patients.

More than 20 years have passed since California became the first state to legalize medical marijuana. What has followed is a domino effect of states legalizing medical marijuana based on California as a case study that cannabis can provide relief for a variety of conditions. As of April 2017, 29 states have legalized marijuana in some form, bringing patients relief and expanding the authorization of choices in treatment they receive, based on the doctor-patient relationship.

Yet, a complete understanding of the benefits of medical marijuana are severely limited as the cannabis plant and its products are designated as a Schedule I drug, preventing any large-scale research on patients. Thorough research to understand proper usage and potential benefits of medical marijuana for patients is critical to federal legalization of cannabis. Today, many Americans support legalization of medical marijuana.

Therefore, Hadassah calls for:

• federal legalization of medical marijuana, so that patients in every state may benefit from medical marijuana
• reframing of medical marijuana policy as a doctor-patient decision; and
• research to fully investigate the potential benefits of medical marijuana.

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sweet new year
shanah tovah