Connections
Winter 2019 – 2020 | Kislev 5780

SAVE THE DATE!

Make your connection in Atlanta!
PLUG IN & POWER UP

May 15 – 17, 2020
TRI-REGION CONFERENCE
Open to all members!

✓ Plug into the vision for the future
✓ Connect with new friends and renew bonds with Hadassah sisters
✓ Amp up your leadership skills
✓ Be energized by Hadassah's medical innovations & achievements
✓ Get empowered for activism and advocacy in 2020

Watch for details soon or visit your Region website
www.hadassah.org/southern
www.hadassah.org/southeastern
www.hadassah.org/southernseaboard

Meet Rhoda Smolow
Hadassah's new President

Who We Are
Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer organization that inspires a passion for and commitment to the land, the people and the future of Israel. Through education, advocacy, and youth development, and its support of medical care and research at Hadassah Medical Organization, Hadassah enhances the health and lives of people in Israel, the United States and worldwide.

www.hadassah.org
Connect with Hadassah Super South

What we do

Based in Atlanta, our office supports regions, chapters, groups in the Super South Geographic Area, sharing best practices, promoting synergy and collaboration among the regions, and enhancing partnerships with National divisions and departments.

We provide support in fundraising, membership outreach and engagement, finance, operations, strategic design, annual planning, program and event planning, marketing and more.

Who we are

Robin Hyman
Senior Manager, Grassroots Engagement

Congratulations to Robin on her promotion to Senior Manager, Grassroots Engagement. In her new role, Robin will support our regions, chapters and groups in achieving their fundraising and membership goals through events and programs, and will be gathering vital data to help inform and guide strategic decisions at multiple levels.

Connect with Robin at rhyman@hadassah.org or 470-482-6779

Angie Gilstrap
Senior Administrative Assistant

Angie is often the first connection for anyone contacting Super South for assistance. Angie’s responsibilities include chapter remittances, design and production of marketing materials, and operational support for our Geographic Area office. Her many years of experience, paired with great familiarity with our regions and commitment to customer service excellence, are Angie’s hallmarks.

Formerly Angie King, Angie married Jason Gilstrap in June, 2019. They live in Kennesaw with their four sons.

Connect with Angie at agilstrap@hadassah.org or 470-482-6778

Meet Margo

Margo Dix Gold
Managing Director, Hadassah Super South

I love Hadassah’s theme for this year, ‘Connection is Power,’ in part because it works in both directions. How powerful it is that you are connected to Hadassah, connected to each other, connected to HMO and to Israel, and connected to us at Hadassah Super South.

Connecting with so many of you has been one of the highlights of my new role as Managing Director. How powerful I have found those new connections to be. Our Hadassah mission is worthy and inspiring but it is each of our members who make it come to life.

‘Women who do’ suits me well. I recognize in you my own passions to make a difference.

For the last four years, I had the privilege to serve as International President of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), the North American network of six hundred Conservative congregations. I was honored to help guide its transformation to address the needs of its’ members within a changing Jewish communal landscape.

My other calling is Jewish activism toward achieving social justice. As the Community Relations Director for the Atlanta Jewish Federation, I helped engage the community in addressing a diverse number of major social issues, including poverty, literacy, food insecurity and the Darfur genocide, as well as advocating on behalf of Israel and for important domestic issues at the Georgia capital and in D.C.

Joining Hadassah is another step in my personal journey to serve and my professional journey to engage others in work that is meaningful and vital. As an HLA alumna, I am pleased to be working on your behalf with Robin and Angie, and look forward to making our connections more powerful.

Connect with Margo at mgold@hadassah.org or 470-482-6777

Rallying in NYC for Women’s Rights, Hadassah National Convention, July 2019.
Connect with Hadassah Southeastern

Message from Joanna Rich
Hadassah Southeastern President

The Hadassah year 2020 will begin the last of the “best three years of my life” since I attended that first National training meeting for the new 2018 class of region presidents. This training brings women of all ages together to learn new skills, share challenges, and work toward solutions and success. We represent different parts of the country with multiple structures within our regions. One of the most important takeaways is the realization that we were not alone.

The strength of any region is rooted in the members and leaders of our chapters and groups. It is your efforts that bring in members, give life to the tenets of Hadassah programs, raise funds in support of Hadassah’s goals, and become the face of Hadassah in our communities.

We have an amazing Hadassah year ahead in 2020. In May, the Tri-Region Conference will be held in Atlanta, and include the involvement of our newly chartered Chaya EVOLVE chapter. You will have the opportunity to meet National, region and local leaders, engage in conversations that will expand your horizons, share ideas for programs and have a great time. Mark your calendars and join us to Plug In and Power Up.

Savannah Hosts “The Sisterhood of Advocacy”

Hadassah Savannah’s “The Sisterhood of Advocacy” brought together 40 Hadassah members and guests from Savannah and Hilton Head with Sisterhoods from local synagogues. The program on May 21st at the home of Jean Weitz attracted a wide spectrum of ages, interests and political beliefs.

Karen Barall, Hadassah’s Director of Government Relations in Washington, DC, and Amy Hughes, a partner in Hughes Public Affairs, Savannah, spoke on Hadassah’s legislative advocacy agenda, including the “Never Again” Education Act, and how to effectively communicate with government officials and policy makers,

Amy shared ways to strategically advocate within the structure of our local/state government, particularly in the areas of health care and education. Karen focused on Hadassah’s national initiatives, inspiring each participant to pursue involvement in policies about which they are passionate.

28th Annual Hadassah Greater Atlanta Chesed Student Awards

On May 5th, the 28th annual Hadassah Greater Atlanta (HGA) Chesed Student Awards honoring excellence and menschlichkeit in Atlanta’s Jewish teens took place at Temple Emanu-El. HGA partnered with JumpSpark to honor 22 bright young leaders and mensches representing synagogues, day schools, and Jewish organizations in our community.

The Phyllis M. Cohen Chesed Leadership Award was presented to Jereme Weiner. The Linda and Michael Weinroth Chesed Community Service Award essay contest winner was Grant Chernau. The Change Maker Award was presented by JumpSpark, Atlanta’s initiative for Jewish teen engagement, to Steven Resnick, Youth Director at Etz Chaim.

Hilton Head Presents Living with Dementia, Alzheimer’s and Related Diseases

More than 120 women and men gathered for Hadassah Hilton Head’s educational forum “Living with Dementia, Alzheimer’s, and Related Diseases” on September 24th. Recognizing disease symptoms, typical indicators of aging versus early signs of Alzheimer’s, ways to keep one’s brain healthy, and how family and friends can support a caregiver were some of the topics covered.

The distinguished forum panel included Dr. Joel Greenberg, Neurologist; Dr. Krystal Culler, Asst Program Director at Memory Matters; Ken Meyer, Family Member and Caregiver; Debbie Anderson, Community Education Director Memory Matters and Carolann Roberto, certified trainer/support group facilitator for the Alzheimer’s Association.

www.hadassah.org/southeastern
Connect with Hadassah Southern Seaboard

Message from Aliza Bricklin
Hadassah Southern Seaboard President

One down, two to go.....

I can’t believe my first year is almost over! Having fun is one of my primary leadership themes. Thank you to my region board for its support and congratulations to all my chapters for the successful, fun programming undertaken in 2019, including Shabbat Under the Stars, a fashion show, chocolate seder and a Passover tasting luncheon. I visited nine chapters this year and commit to visit the rest in 2020.

I look forward to continuing the fun times in 2020 by attending more chapter events (please invite me!) and partnering with our Major Gifts Officer, Diana Warth Bregman, to utilize her expertise and our personal region contacts to identify potential major donors, so that SSR can do its part to meet the ongoing needs of Hadassah Medical Organization.

The highlight of the coming year will be the Tri-Region Conference in Atlanta, May 15-17. I guarantee you this will be FUN! It will be like a mini-national convention: speakers from National, time to enjoy the company of your region friends, opportunity to make new friends from the south, leadership development and most important, being inspired by the latest and greatest Hadassah news.

Hadassah Chapters Converge for a Day at the Museum

October 6 was very special, as more than 20 Hadassah Charlottesville members joined 70 Hadassah Richmond members for an extraordinary “Day at the Museum” at the Richmond Holocaust Museum. World famous historian Dr. Charles Sydnor helped attendees discover a deeper understanding of the struggle that faced the Jews of Europe during WWII, followed by tours of Museum exhibits and cherished archives. Following lunch, all were privileged to hear Holocaust survivor and Hadassah Richmond lifetime member, Halima Zimm, share her personal story and her message, “I can forgive, but I will never forget.”

Hula Hoops and Havdalah in Raleigh

Hadassah Raleigh welcomed summer with a pool party at the local JCC on June 1. A professional Hula Hoop performer got many of the 50 attendees up and Hula Hooping. The lei fundraiser and silent auction were a big hit, the Havdalah service moving and a good time was had by all.

Best of all, over $1,000 was raised to support Hadassah’s incredible work in Israel and the U.S.

Greensboro Game Night

Hadassah Greensboro hosted a Mah Jongg (and other sundry games) Night at Beth David Synagogue, attended by ninety players strong.

All this spirited fun was in service of a serious cause. The evening raised $2,000 toward the 360 Degrees of Healing initiative to benefit Hadassah Medical Organization.

www.hadassah.org/southernseaboard
Connect with Hadassah Southern

Message from Marla Kamen
Hadassah Southern President

It’s unbelievable how 2019 came and went. A year ago I was about to leave for New York City for my initial Region President’s training and was told it was going to be the BEST three years of my life. I’m happy to report the first BEST one was an exhilarating and productive year and I have ALL of you THANK! From our installation and mid-winter board meeting in Baton Rouge, to our Spring board meeting in Birmingham. Then 15 of us gathered in NYC for an incredible National Convention, and finally our fall board meeting back in Birmingham. Oh, and in May, Daniel and I welcomed our son, Eli, who attended his first region board meeting! Being a far-flung region can have its challenges, but every time we get together, I’m reminded that it’s just geography! We share not only our passion for Hadassah, but also our wanting to make a difference in our communities. As chapter programming is critical to our region’s and Hadassah’s success, we continually share ideas and learn from each other.

Looking forward to 2020, I can’t wait to get together at our Tri-Region Conference being held in Atlanta. Hope to see you there!

Nashville Best Strokes 2019 Raises $24,000

Hadassah Nashville hosted more than 200 people on March 9, 2019 to celebrate breast cancer survivors and honor Ingrid Mayer, M.D. of the Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center. Erin Coleman and Sara Hanai chaired the 2-part event.

Paint Day took place at a private home where artists volunteered to paint 15 survivors’ torsos. The torsos were then photographed and the color photos transferred onto canvas and auctioned at the Gala.

Proceeds of $24,000 were donated to Breast Cancer and Genetic Research at Hadassah Hospital.

Birmingham Brunch & Bubbly

Hadassah Birmingham held their Brunch & Bubbly event on September 22nd at Pinetree Country Club. More than 60 guests helped make this a very successful fundraiser for the 360 Degrees of Healing Campaign. Each received a 360 Degrees tzedakah box.

Dr. Dan Berkowitz, new chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine spoke on “Miraculous Technology in Non-Invasive Heart Surgery.” Dr. Berkowitz noted his collaborations with colleagues at Hadassah Hospital. His wife, Dr. Diane Berkowitz, became a life member at the event.

Atlantans Ilana and Adee Weismark, featured in the Hadassah Annual Giving campaign brochure, shared their life saving story at Hadassah Hospital. When living in Israel, Ilana went to Hadassah Hospital to deliver their first child and suffered a rare and often fatal condition called amniotic fluid embolism. Miraculously, both she and her baby were saved. The Wiesmarks now have 3 children and travel the country to share their personal journey.

Knoxville: Find Your Body Electric

Connecting with Hadassah Medical Organization and with one’s own body was the theme of Hadassah Knoxville’s November 10th event in support of the 360 Degrees of Healing campaign.

Maintaining one’s good physical and cognitive health was the educational focus of the day. Sincerest thanks to Dina Kramer PT, for convening an expert panel of health professionals sharing recommendations to “Find Your Body Electric.”

As a Physical Therapist, Dina advises her patients to exercise 240 minutes per week and to know their “numbers” – blood pressure, A1C, cholesterol, BMI. Brenda Rasch PT encouraged reducing stress by using mindful meditation and had the group practice a technique used in her classes. Health and Wellness Coach Rebecca L. Weinand advised that optimal health is never “one size fits all” and it’s important to know what good health means to each individual. Laurie T. Williams PhD, a Clinical Psychologist, closed with a candid discussion about the warning signs of depression and how to get help.

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Looking forward to 2020, I can’t wait to get together at our Tri-Region Conference being held in Atlanta. Hope to see you there!
As a physician myself, serving four years as National HMO Chair representing HWZOA has been extraordinarily meaningful. Over the years, I met many doctors, and was thanked by many patients as though I had treated them myself. HWZOA owns Hadassah Medical Organization. In 2016, we celebrated its centennial, as well as the centennials of our School of Nursing and the Department of Ophthalmology.

HMO care, training and research impacts the health of the world. It is a world leader in genetics, stem cell science and immunology. The hybrid operating room of the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Hospital Tower, which HWZOA opened in 2012, makes possible transplants and complicated surgeries. Clinician scientists are recruited for collaborative research with outstanding scientists from every continent (except Antarctica). In fact, I met non-Jewish doctors from Mexico and South America who learned Hebrew in order to train at Hadassah.

The diversity of the staff, the professionals, the students and the patients is remarkable. 98 countries are represented by graduates of our Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine Master Degree programs, including a princess and public health leaders from Africa and Asia. Unlike programs in Europe and the U.S. that assume significant resources, our program emphasizes skills applicable to the third world economies of most of their students.

But what I saw four years ago wasn’t all rosy. The maternity area at Mount Scopus was inadequate; the Round Building had 4 patients in a 3-patient room. The best rehab in Israel was in facilities built in 1939. For many reasons, in 2014, HMO was facing difficult financial circumstances. We entered into a Recovery Agreement with the Government of Israel (GOI) and a new Director General for HMO was hired.

Investment by the GOI and HWZOA and changes in HMO management produced impressive results. These include a fabulous new Labor and Delivery suite at Mount Scopus with safe rooms and private patios, the Milstein Cardiac Center at Ein Kerem, updated radiology equipment, new patient rooms at Sharett Cancer Institute, expanded pediatric bone marrow transplant capacity, and an AID/ASHA funded cardiac catheterization suite at Scopus. Patients have moved from the overcrowded Round Building to the Tower and reconstruction of the Round Building is underway to provide 200 of the additional beds that Jerusalem needs.

That’s a small sample of the exciting growth and development I’ve seen from front row orchestra as National HMO Chair. With our support, HMO will continue to be a beacon of healing and coexistence for the world. Modeled on principles of social justice born in the United States, Hadassah is the hospital of the Jewish people – our jewel.
On September 22, Hadassah Greater Atlanta hosted “Almost Chopped: The 2nd Helping,” to benefit treatment and research of neurological diseases at Hadassah Medical Organization.

Four nonprofessional Chef-testant teams vied to create dishes from a basket of mystery ingredients to wow the celebrity judges!

More than $25,000 raised over two years!

The Champions! Team Samantha Lives Next Door

Team Humble and Fierce

Team Haimish Old Dudes

Team The Knife Guys

HGA President Michele Weiner-Merbaum welcomes the crowd and the celebrity judges

The Power of Women Who Advocate

Sign up for Advocacy Alerts at hadassah.org/advocate
Save the Date!

May 15 – 17, 2020
PLUG IN & POWER UP
TRI-REGION CONFERENCE

Set your sights on Hadassah in 2020!

Check your Region webpage for a full calendar.

Hadassah Southern
1/15/20 Chattanooga  Room In The Inn dinner prep
1/19/20 New Orleans  Keeping Your Children Centered
1/26/20 Chattanooga  Why I Should Write My Will panel
Jan-Feb, 2020 Chattanooga  Children’s “Teddy Bear” Clinic & Health Study
Feb 7-9, 2020 Chattanooga  Picnic & Hike at Montegue Sculpture Field
3/02/20 Chattanooga  Donor Event
5/03/20 Chattanooga  Mammogram Van

Hadassah Southeastern
1/16/20 Savannah  Myrtle Wreath Awards
1/19/20 Greater Atlanta  Modern Women’s Initiative
1/19/20 Hilton Head  Board Installation
2/01/20 Greater Atlanta  PRAZE Event
2/06/20 Southeastern  Winter Meeting (Virtual)
2/19/20 Hilton Head  Best Strokes Paint Day
3/18/20 Hilton Head  Cabaret
4/26/20 Hilton Head  Mah Jongg Tourney
5/03/20 Greater Atlanta  Chessed Awards
May 15-17, 2020 Hilton Head  Tri-Region Conf in Atlanta
June  Shabbat at the Beach

Hadassah Southern Seaboard
1/01/20 Wilmington  “Being Mortal” Documentary
1/08/20 Lake Norman  New Member Tea
1/11/20 Richmond  Comedy Night with Rabbi Robert Hass
1/12/20 Charlotte  Mah Jongg/Game Day at JCC
Jan 17-18, 2020 Greensboro  Scholar in Residence Weekend with BG
1/23/20 Greensboro  Winter Escape Dessert and Stone Writing
1/26/20 Southern Seaboard  Winter Meeting (Virtual)
1/28/20 Charlotte  Vintners Get Together
2/01/20 Chapel Hill-Durham  Melanoma & Skin Care Speaker
2/05/20 Richmond  Advocacy Day
2/09/20 Winston-Salem  Tu B’Shevat, the New Year for the Trees
2/10/20 Charlotte  Tu B’Shevat Seder
2/23/20 Greensboro  ABC’s of CBD program
2/25/20 Charlotte  Mah Jongg Tournament
3/01/20 Charlotte  Health Night Yoga
3/01/20 Chapel Hill-Durham  Chai Tea & Hammantaschen
3/01/20 Charlotte  Sun City Game Day
3/01/20 Greensboro  Queen Esther Program
3/06/20 Greensboro  Hadassah Shabbat
3/07/20 Lake Norman  Wine Tasting & Purim Party
3/09/20 Danville  Break Esther’s Fast
3/11/20 Charlotte  Charleston Shabbat
3/12/20 Charlotte  Richmond Ballet
3/15/20 Chapel Hill-Durham  Human Trafficking Program
3/19/20 Charlotte  Women’s Interregnerational Seder
3/27/20 Charlotte  Annual Passover Tasting
3/29/20 Greensboro  Suicide Prevention Program
4/22/20 Charlotte  New Member Lunch
4/28/20 Winston-Salem  Yom HaZikaron / Yom HaAtzmaut
5/05/20 Charlotte  Casa Hadassah
5/06/20 Wilmington  Boat Tour of Wrightsville Beach
May 15-17, 2020 Super South Tri-Region  Tri-Region Conf in Atlanta

www.hadassah.org