



Hadassah International Medical Relief Association, Ltd. (HIMRA)

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Hadassah International *eBulletin*

VOLUNTEERS MOVE MOUNTAINS
HADASSAH LEADS THE WAY

Dear Colleagues...

I've just returned from a meeting in Jerusalem of the Hadassah Medical Organization Board of Directors. I am proud to tell you that in spite of the terror, the country's economic problems, and the Israeli general sense of sadness and frustration over the current political situation, the Hadassah Medical Organization not only continues to remain an oasis of peace, but remains a strong, growing and thriving academic medical center, as you can see in this *eBulletin*.

This is in large part, of course, due to the high caliber, spirit and courage of our doctors and nurses, social workers, and other caring professionals. But (and I am told this so often) it is also because of the friendship, the support, and the sense of partnership both emotional and financial, they receive from all of us around the world.

Please note the many events in our Calendar of Events section! Very exciting! I call your attention to the Medical Mission occurring this November (see attachment).

Dedicated to fighting the call for a medical and scientific boycott of Israel, this Mission includes some of the most prestigious names in international medicine, who have volunteered to attend and to present.



Nancy Falchuk, Hadassah International President

(Continued on page 4)



**Hadassah International
Solidarity Conference in
Israel
March 13-15, 2004
Jerusalem**

See inside for details.....

BRIDGE TO NATIONS

Outreach for First West Bank Palestinian Pediatric Oncology Department

No pediatric oncology department exists in any of the West Bank Palestinian hospitals, even though there are more than a hundred new cases of cancer among Palestinian children each year.

Since the Oslo Accords, children in the Palestinian Authority are no longer covered by the Israeli health system. Some families raise private funds to cover years of treatment that children's cancers

often require, but many do not get to Hadassah or other Israeli hospitals.

In a program sponsored by the Peres Center for Peace, **Hadassah's Pediatric Oncology Department, headed by Dr. Michael Weintraub**, has begun developing the first West Bank Palestinian pediatric oncology department at the 50-year-old Augusta Victoria Hospital, run by the Lutheran World Fed-

eration on the Mount of Olives.

"Augusta Victoria has an oncology department and a pediatrics department, so within three years they should be able to provide the special care needed for small cancer patients," said Dr. Weintraub. "Mismanaged treatment unhappily costs many children's lives."

Medical Assistance for Ghana

Several months ago, representatives of foreign workers in Israel from Ghana approached the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) and requested assistance of obtaining any kind of equipment for a hospital in their country.

In March, HMO sent a container to Cape Coast Hospital with mattresses, beds, gloves, dialysis machines, curtains, an x-ray machine, defibrillators, computers, clothes, and sheets.

A letter of appreciation from the Ghana Embassy in Tel Aviv stated, "On behalf of the Cape Coast Hospital, the embassy in Tel Aviv wishes to express its profound gratitude to the Hadassah Medical Organization for the generous donation of medical equipment, which will go a long way to improve medical services in our country."

House Call to Cyprus

A man was severely injured when he stepped into an empty elevator shaft in Cyprus and tumbled four flights to the basement of the building. Local doctors saved his life, but he was about to lose at least one leg. In Jerusalem **Professor David Linton** was contacted and asked if he could come and see the patient. Professor Linton is **Director of Hadassah's Intensive Care Unit at Ein Kerem**, a unit that deals with non-trauma-related intensive care. "There is no intensive care unit for complex, multi-system care on the island," said Professor Linton, who periodically teaches intensive care courses in Cyprus.

Many patients in the past have come to Hadassah from Cyprus for treatment. Due to the short notice involved, Professor Linton flew in a friend's private plane along with a Hadassah orthopedist to see what could be done. Once Linton arrived and examined the injured man, it was agreed that it would be best to bring the patient to Hadassah to increase the chances of saving his leg. The man has since flown home to Cyprus, walking on both legs.

Restoring Sight in the North Pacific

From a radio announcement in the Marshall Islands, about half way from Hawaii to Australia, men and women learned of an upcoming visit of Israeli eye doctors to Majouro, the capital, where there is no local eye doctor. From the Coral Islands and reefs in the North Pacific Ocean, they came with their families to see the ophthalmologists. **Dr. Irene Anteby and Dr. Edward Averbukh, from Hadassah's Department of Ophthalmology**, were on a visit coordinated by the Department for International Cooperation of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. Hadassah University Hospital had sent ahead 14 cartons of medical equipment.

Hundreds of the local residents were quietly lined up for the doctors at the one-story hospital. Many of them were blind. A nurse translated from the dialects of the Marshalese language. "One woman told me that she'd never seen her grandchildren. Her smile at regaining her sight was priceless," stated Dr. Anteby. She added that, "in the fourteen years she has been working as an ophthalmologist she has never seen such neglected eyes." Thirty percent of the population suffers from diabetes, which affects blood vessels in the eyes, as well as elsewhere in the body. Taking turns examining and operating, the two doctors did laser treatment for the diabetics and cataract surgery for most of those who were blind.

Although restoring sight was their first priority, Dr. Anteby "couldn't resist" repairing the eyes of a young man, 29, who was so cross-eyed he saw double. "My specialty at Hadassah Hospital is pediatric ophthalmology, and I correct as many as 25 cases of cross-eyed children a week at Hadassah. For a trained physician the operation is a simple procedure. The young man had been in a motorbike accident ten years earlier, and had been suffering with double vision ever since. His eye muscles were partly paralyzed. I was able to balance them and change his life." In three weeks, the two doctors performed over a hundred operations and laser treatments and examined 2000 patients!

From the Riviera

.... A Letter from Bea Birnbaum

This weekend I accompanied Michelle Israel, Director, Hadassah France, to Nice for the Hadassah Nice-Côte d'Azur concert.

It was fantastic; there are no other words to describe the overwhelming feeling of driving up to the opera house and seeing a long line of people waiting for the doors to open a half hour before the event was to start. And the line just kept getting longer and longer, reaching 970 people who attended this event! That's a full house. Virtually every seat was taken up to the fifth rung of the theater. It was quite amazing.

The committee was made up of President Dr. Alain Salimpour, his wife, Ruthy, and Bruno Lellouch (a young physician who virtually stopped seeing his patients to send out 300 e-mails a day and organized the 11-times-a-day ad-

vertisement on the radio, articles in *Nice-Matin*, etc. etc.), Esther Poulain, Jean-Paul Alimi, and Albert Fechet. Each had a role to play and did so perfectly.

Dr. Salimpour spoke beautifully about his dream for peace and for harmony among peoples, inspired by a visit to Luxembourg where he attended the gala closing of the Palestinian-Israeli summer camp held there.

Honorary President Professor Mouiel spoke briefly but to the point and very warmly about Hadassah Hospital. He explained that Hadassah Hospital is not just a hospital but a symbol, and told about its humanitarian work. Then Michelle came out to thank all the volunteers and the audience for its support.

The concert itself was divided among three performers:

1. A young pianist (daughter of Esther Poulain mentioned

(Continued on page 7)

New York City, July 2003

At the annual convention of our parent organization, Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA), during a session given by Hadassah International, Nancy Falchuk, President, informed the delegates that in spite of the many challenges faced by Hadassah International through the years, its volunteers have raised millions of dollars for the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO). "We have become a movement committed to keeping international politics, such as the recent threat to expel the Israel Medical Association from the World Medical Association, out of medicine and science, "

Hadassah International leaders—Ethel Fainstein, Director, Hadassah Mexico, Karine Reding-Reuter Esq., President, Hadassah Luxembourg NGO, and Roy Reding, Esq., Executive Board Member, Hadassah Luxembourg NGO—spoke of their own experiences and success stories in their respective communities.

Ethel Fainstein moved to Mexico City from Argentina two years ago. Upon being appointed to her position, Ethel slowly gained trust and acceptance from the Mexican community and now involves more than 2000 community members in Hadassah International. Working together, they raised the funds to purchase 50 bulletproof vests for Hadassah doctors in Israel, organized a nursing seminar in Mexico, and donated profits from local Hadassah events to the new Center for Emergency Medicine at Ein Kerem. The secret to

volunteer recruitment and fundraising in new communities, explained Ethel, is learning the local culture, plus faith, trust, loyalty, perseverance, and persistence.

The Redings related that their unit is recognized as a tax-deductible non-governmental organization (NGO) by the Luxembourg government, which matches two dollars for every dollar raised by Hadassah Luxembourg NGO. Hadassah Luxembourg NGO adopted an ophthalmology project in Rwanda through which they sponsored the training of an African ophthalmologist at HMO. They have helped bring the first ophthalmologist to this ailing African state, thereby combating its high rate of eye diseases. The unit also raised funds to purchase all the instruments for the Rwandan clinic. "We wanted to give but also receive," said Roy Reding. "This is more than an organization—it is a family of women and men from all nations, all faiths, dedicated to the universal goal of healing. People don't understand that a single person can move mountains. There are so many like us in our family. It's a miracle there are any mountains still out there."



Roy and Karine Reding, Co-Chairs of Hadassah Luxembourg, address the HWZOA Convention in New York City

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Dear Colleagues (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

And, you must join us for our Annual Conference which, this year, will be a "Hadassah International Solidarity Conference," March 13-15, 2004 in Jerusalem. What an opportunity to see for yourself the "work of your hands," and to witness how all your efforts have made a difference. Come see the growth of the New Center for Emergency Medicine, and the new and flourishing departments that you have supported, or will want to support!

We'll spend time at Ein Kerem and Mount Scopus; we'll dine and dance with our friends. We'll be in Israel together. And we'll be at the beautiful and historic King David Hotel! More details will follow shortly, but **save the date** on your calendars!

The **Hadassah International eBulletin** gives us the opportunity to introduce you to June Walker, the 23rd National President of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. As you know, HWZOA is our parent organiza-

tion, and although we are incorporated as Hadassah International Medical Relief Association (HIMRA), function with a specific mission and are delighted to include men and women, our operational funding and support are received from HWZOA.

The President of HWZOA, a volunteer, is elected every four years, and the term of our good friend Bonnie Lipton has concluded. As all our past presidents, Bonnie (whose talents, especially in fundraising are world renowned!) will continue to be available to help us. We now welcome June who, as a healthcare professional herself, appreciates the tremendous growing potential of the international community to support the Hadassah Medical Centers.

For all of us, whether we celebrate the Jewish New Year or not, it is my hope, and I'm sure yours as well, that we can soon find a world at peace, where there is respect for all human life, and individual dignity. I believe that through our Hadassah International work, we can contribute, in some small way, to helping make this happen.

JUNE WALKER: 23rd President of Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America



We are happy to announce that June Walker has been elected president of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA), the parent organization of Hadassah International.

Ms. Walker of Rockaway, New Jersey, USA, shares Hadassah International's goal to instill "a passion for participation" in support of the Hadassah Medical Organization.

Holding academic degrees in chemistry, respiratory therapy, and public health administration, Ms. Walker has worked as a research chemist and a respiratory therapist, and served as director of in-service education for Pulmonary Medicine at New York City's Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

"For over two decades," Ms. Walker notes, "Hadassah has been a household name in many countries around the world. More people are getting acquainted with our medical and educational programs that benefit so many people across the globe. It is through the tireless efforts and hard work of the Hadassah International volunteers and staff that we have achieved fame and recognition beyond the borders of the United States and Israel.

"Hadassah International is the arm we use to deliver Hadassah's message of peace, health, and good will to every corner of the world."

Hadassah International Medical Relief Association, Ltd. (HIMRA) is a network of dedicated volunteers founded on the principle that advancement and cooperation in medicine and science transcend politics, religion and national boundaries.

From Mexico to Jerusalem: A Gift of Life

In tribute to their father, Jose (Pepe) Sandler on his 70th birthday and in appreciation for all he and his wife, Sara, have done for them, the Sandler family of Mexico gave “a gift of life” to the Hadassah Medical Center. They dedicated a seminar room in the Department of Ophthalmology and a bay in the new Center for Emergency Medicine.

“We called it a ‘gift of life,’ ” Pepe’s son Moishe Sandler, a strong supporter of Hadassah Mexico, explains, “because what better recognition to your parents than giving away *Tzedaka* (charity) that will bring life to others.” Moishe adds that “none is better than Hadassah in

providing excellent medical care to all races and helping medical professionals around the world.”

The Sandler extended family, 21 in number—including 11 grandchildren—were all dressed in blue and white t-shirts, produced for the occasion. The shirts displayed a Hadassah emblem embroidered on the left-hand corner with the words “Gift of Life, Zeide (Grandfather) Pepe.”

The Sandler family celebrates the 70th birthday of Jose (Pepe) Sandler at Hadassah Ein Kerem

Moishe spoke of how his father’s wisdom has guided him throughout his life. In addition, five of Pepe’s 11 grandchildren (including the youngest, age 4) spoke in praise of their grandfather—one in English, one in Yiddish, two in Spanish, and one in Hebrew.

Among the speakers was 15-year-old Vanessa, who said: “A grandfather always teaches his grandchildren his values. But what makes you the best *zeide* (grandfather) is that you demonstrate to

us the importance of those principles through your own actions. ...A vital lesson you have taught us is that the two most important things in life are health and the ability to forgive.Hadassah’s function revolves around your principles: on the one hand, the hospital’s main focus is to save lives and maintain optimal health. On the other, it integrates the notion of forgiving by having doctors care for patients despite the harm the patients or their peers might have caused in the past. For this reason I find that these rooms are worthy of carrying your name; they represent the lessons that you want to pass on to your children and grandchildren.”

Bobe (grandmother) Sara praised the Israelis for their efforts to sustain Israel and offered unrestricted support, as well as gratitude. “Hopefully,” she said, “we will enjoy the peace that we all desire.”

Sara directed the children to safeguard the values and principles that originate with our *Bobes and Zeides* who came from Europe, the values that have already been passed on for three generations. She concluded by thanking Pepe for being a wonderful son, husband, father and role model to all these children who brought them so much joy.

At the seminar room, the Sandler clan asked Sara to unveil the plaque which, to her surprise, revealed that the donation to the ophthalmology department was made in her honor.

Moishe recalls that his connection to Israel goes back to his childhood when there were campaigns on behalf of Israel launched in his home, or his grandmother’s home—or his uncle’s. He notes that what is important to publicize

about Hadassah is not only its nonracist policy in treating everyone regardless of ethnicity, but also its outreach to hospitals in other countries—the extensive, comprehensive help and training it provides to health professionals in so many other countries. As Moishe phrases it: “there is a culture at Hadassah of helping out, rather than just in.”

To date, more than 20 Mexican non-Jewish physicians have trained at Hadassah. He adds proudly that in a few months, there will be the first International Nursing Symposium in Monterrey, Mexico, organized by Hadassah International volunteer Barbara Sabin, in cooperation with The University Hospital San Jose and Technological Institute of Monterrey. This symposium will feature presentations by nurses Barbara Sabin, Chair of Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) Scientific Relationships for Hadassah International; HMO Director of Nursing Orly Rotem Picker; Nurit Wagner, immediate past Director of Nursing and current Hadassah International Medical Outreach Liaison to communities around the world; as well as Mexican nursing professionals.

“What better recognition to your parents than giving away *Tzedaka* (charity) that will bring life to others.”

**Moishe Sandler,
Hadassah Mexico**

If you have contributed, or would like to contribute, a major gift to Hadassah of \$15,000 or more, our Hadassah Office in Israel would be honored to arrange a **dedication ceremony for you during the International Solidarity Conference**, March 13-15 in Jerusalem. For more information, please contact Gerry Sue Arnold, Hadassah International Fundraising Chair: gsa@sc.rr.com

Meet the Volunteers: Suzanne (Susi) Shaked, President, Hadassah Austria, 1995-Present



**Susi Shaked
Austria**

Suzanne (Susi) Shaked, educator and business owner, had planned to retire and “have a nice life.” She had taught English and French in Paris, as well

as run her family’s fashion shop in Vienna. Now, she decided, it was time to relax. Within a fortnight, however, she received a call asking her to create a Hadassah International presence in Austria to build support for The Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO). Susi was familiar with HMO, she relates, because her mother-in-law, a native of the Israeli town of Haifa, used to receive treatment at Hadassah Hospital for multiple sclerosis. She recalls that although it was a very long, difficult ride, her mother-in-law wanted to be treated only at Hadassah. “I realized,” says Susi, that “Hadassah was not just a hospital, but an institution that gave hope.”

With 20 friends, Susi started Hadassah Austria, now the initiator of exciting partnerships between HMO and Austrian institutions, as well as the host of prestigious concerts and lectures, and the source of major donations to our hospitals. One exciting new venture, facilitated by Hadassah Austria, is the cooperative research project on Hepatitis C between the departments of pediatrics of HMO and the Uni-

versity Hospital Vienna. Researchers will shortly investigate whether there is post-natal transmission of Hepatitis C, whereby a mother with the virus infects her infant. As Susi explains, “a third of the world population is infected with Hepatitis C and it is not clear if mothers with Hepatitis C should nurse their infants.” While both Austrian and Israeli new mothers will provide research samples, most of the research will be done at Hadassah. The researchers expect to begin their work in a few months and Hadassah Austria has committed to raising funds for this joint research endeavor as well.

In addition, Susi notes, Hadassah Austria will continue to support the funding of an Arab-speaking social worker in HMO’s Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. This past year, Hadassah Austria participated in the Annual World Wide Walk, earmarking the 1,000 Euros raised for the Psychiatry Unit. Susi, an enthusiastic fundraiser for HMO, also convinced a generous donor to contribute \$35,000 toward a Loko machine for the hospital, which, through a type of computerized physical therapy, helps those who have lost the functioning of their limbs to use them again.

Thanks to Susi’s tireless efforts and creativity, Hadassah Austria has hosted various educational programs that have drawn large crowds. For example, Hadassah Austria sponsored a series of lectures on Judaism and antiquity, which featured topics such as “Jewish Healing Through Magic in Antiquity.” The second symposium on art as therapy highlighted Hadassah’s work with traumatized children. An-

other creative program planned by Susi was entitled “Poetry for Peace” and featured poems, written by Arab and Israeli children, interspersed with the music of Brahms and Schubert performed by the internationally acclaimed Altenberg Trio. This event raised funds for Hadassah’s new Center for Emergency Medicine.

“I never have to pay for a location,” Susi notes. Whether the Jewish Museum or a Baroque Palace, Susi has managed to have the space provided gratis.

Susi also shares her programming talents with the United Nations, where she represents Hadassah Austria on two UN Committees: the Committee on Peace and the Committee on the Status of Women. “It’s important for us to be represented there, to raise questions,” she explains, and continues to be an active member, helping to plan committee programs.

Susi’s most recent Hadassah Austria event is a September book launch, focusing on Ernst Federn, who was a prisoner in the Buchenwald concentration camp, as well as the son of a colleague of Psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud. Co-sponsors of this event are the Austrian Center of Resistance and the Viennese Socialist Party.

Retirement, it seems, was just not the right plan for Susi Shaked!



(Continued from page 3)

above) and a young cellist (who is also the youngest conductor there).

2) Miguel-Angel Estrella, world-renowned pianist and UNESCO Ambassador, and founder of "Music and Hope"—a volunteer organization which brings music to the poorest children in the outskirts of Buenos Aires. All I can say is that tears were streaming down my face as he played. It was incredible!

3) A group of young kids (children and grandchildren of members) all dressed in white accompanied Patricia Grillo who sang the song, *Hadassah, Pour La Paix*, the music composed by Alain and Jean-Paul Alimi, the words by Ruth Salimpour and Rachel Blot.

Also present at the event were Mr. Aryeh Avigdor, Consul General of Israel who came from Marseilles, Mr. Riviere, Deputy, Brigitte Tanoudji Dahan, who stood in for the Mayor

of Nice, Dr. Joseph Benichou, President of the Jewish community, the Dean and former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and the founding committee members: Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Ben Zimra and Dr. and Mrs. Alain Sebbah. Making the trip from Luxembourg were Roy Reding and Karine Reuter-Reding, President Hadassah Luxembourg NGO, as well as the former Luxembourg Ambassador to the States, Germany, Soviet Union and later Russia, and the United Nations.

Everyone was left with the feeling of a perfect event, a wonderful evening, and much success for Hadassah on the Riviera.

And, of course, everyone is going to try to come to Jerusalem!!

Best regards,
Beatrice Birnbaum, Hadassah International
Director of Development, Europe

Thank you, Hadassah International



Hadassah International presents the Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) with a check for \$8 million!

This represents funds raised by Hadassah International units worldwide during 2002-03.

Standing from left to right: Bonnie Lipton, Former President, Hadassah USA; Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, Director General, HMO; Karine Reding-Reuter, President, Hadassah Luxembourg NGO; Nancy Falchuk, President, Hadassah International; Ethel Fainstein, Director, Hadassah Mexico; Dr. Danielle Hilson, Executive Director, Hadassah International; Roy Reding, Hadassah Luxembourg; and Bernice S. Tannenbaum, Founder and Former President, Hadassah International and Former President, Hadassah USA.

GIFTS TO THE HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION CAN BE SENT TO:

Hadassah International Bank Leumi Account # 63040016

By check mail to: Mr. Albert Israel, Bank Leumi, Jerusalem Main Branch #901, 21 Jaffa Street, Jerusalem, Israel 94141 or By wire: Swift Code: LUMI IL IT XXX

You can make a difference.

Save The Date

**Hadassah International Solidarity Conference
Jerusalem, Israel
March 13-15, 2004**

**Visits to the Hadassah Medical Centers
Accommodation at the King David Hotel*
Updates by leading statesmen
Special foreign Embassy reception**

**Conference package \$299
Special Young Hadassah rate \$199**

*Hotel costs separate

Hadassah International Calendar of Events

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p style="text-align: center;">October 11, 2003</p> <p>Soccer match France-Israel, 100 First Category seats booked for Hadassah</p> <p>Paris, France</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November 2, 2003</p> <p>Israeli Oratorio Premiere, "Ester"</p> <p>Paris, France</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 1-2, 2003</p> <p>International Nursing Symposium</p> <p>Monterrey, Mexico</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">October 23, 2003</p> <p>Fundacion Hadassah Argentina Concert</p> <p>Buenos Aires, Argentina</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November 4, 2003</p> <p>Reception at residence of the Israeli Ambassador</p> <p>Stockholm, Sweden</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 1, 2003</p> <p>Comedy "Le Sel et le Miel"</p> <p>Belgium</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">October 26, 2003</p> <p>World Wide Walk</p> <p>Vienna, Austria</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November 13, 2003</p> <p>Comedy "Le Sel et le Miel"</p> <p>Marseilles, France</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 9, 2003</p> <p>Comedy "Le Sel et le Miel"</p> <p>Lyon, France</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">October 26, 2003</p> <p>Visit of European Parliamentarians to Israel; Gala dinner with HMO speaker</p> <p>Jerusalem, Israel</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November 20, 2003</p> <p>Reception at Museum of Modern Art</p> <p>Frankfurt, Germany</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December 14, 2003</p> <p>Disco event at "L'Etoile"</p> <p>Paris, France</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">October 29-30, 2003</p> <p>Latin American Symposium of Jewish Organizations Hadassah hosting breakfast</p> <p>Antigua, Guatemala</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November 21-24, 2003</p> <p>CJP/Hadassah</p> <p>International Solidarity Medical Conference</p> <p>Jerusalem, Israel</p>	