

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Hadassah Members,

Welcome to September. Rosh Hashanah is just a few short weeks away. This time of year, I am always nostalgic. Remembering past Rosh Hashanahs as a child, a young adult, a parent and now a grandparent as our family traditions continue and grow. It is also a time for reflection, of what we have accomplished, our strengths and weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement.



I want to share with you that at our recent National conference, Hadassah adopted three new policy statements: *Strengthening Security to Confront and Protect Against Antisemitic Violence*; *Championing Pluralism Within the Zionist Movement*; and *America at 250: A Call to Celebrate and Strengthen Our Democracy*.

Strengthening Security to Confront and Protect Against Antisemitic Violence – Following recent antisemitic violence in Boulder, Colorado, and Washington, DC, Hadassah reaffirms our commitment to combating antisemitism in all its forms and calls for increased security for the Jewish community and stronger efforts to fight antisemitism online. [Strengthening Security to Confront and Protect Against Antisemitic Violence](#)

Championing Pluralism Within the Zionist Movement – . This policy statement calls on leaders in the Zionist community to ensure that all people who recognize the need for a Jewish state and understand the Jewish people's bond to its historic homeland have a voice in the Zionist movement. [Championing Pluralism Within the Zionist Movement](#)

America at 250: A Call to Celebrate and Strengthen Our Democracy – As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, Hadassah celebrates this historic milestone and renews its commitment to democratic values and ideals. [America at 250: A Call to Celebrate and Strengthen Our Democracy](#)

Wishing you all Shana Tova.

Terry

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Shana Tova
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



HADASSAH NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Highlights of the 2025 National Conference in Florida

"This conference is a celebration of our shared values and the power of women working together to make a difference," said Conference Chair **Dale Marcus**. 500 women from around the country attended the 2025 National Conference.

Hadassah National President **Carol Ann Schwartz** also recognized the dedication of Hadassah women in her welcome remarks. "Each of us is here today because we made a decision about how to use this day — because Hadassah's success depends upon our actions and our collective will."

Hadassah CEO **Ellen Finkelstein** took to the stage to reflect on her first seven months as Hadassah's CEO. I believe in the mission of Hadassah. I understand the plight of women and women's health care. I understand the effects of antisemitism in this country, and every bit of it is a joy to work for but can be painful to watch what happens when we go through difficult times together."

In her impassioned remarks as keynote speaker, pro-Israel influencer **Lizzy Savetsky** demonstrated just what makes her the dynamic social media personality she is reaching over half a million followers in her mission to elevate Jewish causes and combat hate. "If there is one thing that I have known since childhood, it is that Jewish women show up," said Savetsky. "And that legacy of showing up is exactly what Hadassah is all about."

The Second Battle: Rehabilitation plenary : HMO Director General **Prof. Yoram Weiss, MD**, shared updates about recent HMO achievements, including the nearly completed renovation of the Round Building and the opening of Hadassah Beit Shemesh and the Gandel Rehabilitation Center, as well as several major technological advances.

Youth Aliyah plenary: Attendees jumped to their feet for a rousing standing ovation after Meir Shfeyah Youth Aliyah Village students **Darya Dubrovsky**, 18, and **Hana Shvarzman**, 17, shared how the village has transformed their lives. Meir Shfeyah youth counselor **Tomer Bar** said that his main goal is to discover and develop student potential.

At the **Founders Dinner**, Hadassah members, Associates and supporters pledged \$23 million to support Hadassah hospitals and programs in Israel and the United States.

At the **Keepers of the Gate** reception five new Evolve Keepers, 13 new Keepers and 17 step-up Keepers were recognized with Keepers of the Gate pins. The net total of new gifts was \$37,360.

Via video, **Mike Huckabee**, United States ambassador to Israel, said, "Your contributions to the field of medicine transcend ethnic, political and religious lines, whether you're Jewish, Muslim or Christian".

Last Words: Energized & Inspired: "Enlightening, inspiring, amazing and exhausting," "We may be tired, but we are energized," "We may be going home, but we are bringing Hadassah with us." These were some of the comments made at the close of the conference. Overall this was a very successful conference.

There were too many other highlights to mention, so for further details [Click Here](#)

Looking forward to 2026!

GHA HONEY FUNDRAISER

Spread the

sweetness

one jar at a time!



2025 Honey From The Heart Fundraiser

Support your community and share sweet wishes for a healthy and happy New Year by sending a beautiful 8-ounce jar of kosher honey. Each jar comes with a festive label and a personalized card reading:

"Shana Tova-Wishing you a Healthy and Happy New Year"

This card also lets the recipients know that a donation has been made in their honor to Hadassah's Entire Mission.

Your cost is \$18.00 per jar which includes shipping & handling

4 Steps to order honey:

- 1) Visit www.orthoney.com
- 2) Click on **"Order Now"** button from the drop-down menu.
- 3) Select **GAH or Hadassah Greater Atlanta**.



- 4) Place your order and complete checkout, it's quick and easy!

**Important Dates:*

- Order through **August 4** to **avoid** an \$8.00 shipping fee per jar
- Order through **September 10** for guaranteed delivery by Rosh Hashanah
- Honey Store closes **October 22** (while supplies last)

For more information, please contact:

Terry Nordin: terrynordin@comcast.net



KETURA POOL PARTY

Ketura held its annual Pool and Pizza Party on July 27, 2025, at the home of Leora Wollner. Both Hadassah members (women) and Hadassah Associates (men) gathered to cool off in the Atlanta summer weather. The latest Hadassah news taking place in Israel and in the United States was presented. The afternoon began with snacks and ended with pizza and then ice cream! As the guests cooled off in the pool, they learned about the type of water exercise and hydrotherapy that is performed at Hadassah's new Gandel Rehabilitation Institute in Jerusalem. Hydrotherapy is invaluable in helping patients ease pain throughout their regimen at Gandel. Pool Party guests gathered in the pool and participated in exercises to simulate what the patients experience at Gandel.



Leora Wollner, hostess of the Hadassah Ketura Group Pool and Pizza Party, displays a sample of the food for the event guests.



Keeping cool in Hotlanta by splashing in the pool...BUT at the same time exercising those arms by stretching them high in the air! Who knew it was good for you??? See how hydrotherapy helps heal at the Hadassah Rehabilitation Center in Jerusalem.



"Put your Right Foot In"...singing and working your leg muscles while doing water exercises that could be seen at the Hadassah Rehabilitation Center in Jerusalem:

L-R: Phil Jacoby, Leora Wollner, Peri Rosner, Suzy Wilner, Rosalie Agrow, Susan McCarthy, Susan Adair and Fran Redisch.



Smiling after an exhausting workout in the pool performing examples of hydrotherapy used at the Hadassah Gandel Rehabilitation Center:

Top Row: L-R: Rosalie Agrow, Fran Redisch, Phil Jacoby.

Front Row: L-R: Peri Rosner, Susan McCarthy, and Suzy Wilner.

Youth Aliyah visits Atlanta

Hadassah Greater Atlanta was chosen to host two teens and their teacher from [Meir Shfeyah Youth Aliyah Village](#) and Boarding School in Northern Israel. Their visit kicked off on August 6, 2025, with an engaging dessert reception at Kelly Lehman's home, attended by Evolve members. The following day a luncheon was held at the home of Jodi Mekyten. Their accompanying teacher explained his feelings about Hadassah's Youth Aliyah Villages: "A single opportunity can open things for the entire world. We are so proud that Meir Shfeyah makes such a positive impact on the lives of our students." The two students, both speaking perfect English, said, "Living, studying, and experiencing different things at Meir Shfeyah has opened possibilities that they might never have been exposed to."

At the two Hadassah villages students receive a full spectrum of help, such as shelter, food, counseling, education, and other supportive services. They come with virtually no knowledge or understanding of their Jewish heritage. Hadassah is proud to offer them a variety of programs that enhance their lives with the rich history and variety of Jewish life, such as our Joy of Judaism program and heritage enrichment trips to Poland and Ethiopia.



Enjoying brunch at Youth Aliyah event at the home of Jodi Mekyten.



Jodi Mekyten, event host and Michele Weiner-Merbaum, Past President Southeastern Region.



Youth Aliyah event group picture of attendees.



L-R: Michelle Rubin, National Youth Aliyah Chair, Hana Shvarzman, Meir Shfeyah student, Paula Zucker, Southeastern Region President, Darya Dubrovsky, Meir Shfeyah student and Tomer Bar, Youth Aliyah Counselor.



Tomer Bar: Youth Aliyah Counselor.



L-R: Hana Shvarzman and Darya Dubrovsky, students representing Meir Shfeyah Youth Aliyah Village.

Gal Gadot presented with the Hadassah Power of Dreams award at the Jerusalem Film Festival

Hadassah recently recognized the international movie star Gal Gadot for her fearless advocacy on behalf of Israel. On July 17, 2025, before an international audience of 7,000 filmmakers and dignitaries, including the Mayor of Jerusalem, and Hadassah National President, Carol Ann Schwartz, presented Gal Gadot with the Power of Dreams Award at the Jerusalem Film Festival.

Gadot, who portrayed Wonder Woman, is the first Israeli actress to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She is well known for speaking out on behalf of Israel.

Gadot is only the second person to receive this Hadassah award. Gwyneth Paltrow was the first to be given the honor, which recognizes women whose vision and actions mirror those of Hadassah's founder, Henrietta Szold. Szold's compassion laid the foundation and foresight for Israel's modern healthcare system.

Rosalie Agrow, President of the Hadassah Ketura group, said, "Gal Gadot took the opportunity to say thank you to Hadassah, which plays a vital role in the development of medicine in Israel. Gadot added that she loves Israel and she's so proud to be a part of it and to make our voices heard."



Carol Ann Schwartz, Hadassah National President, presenting Gal Gadot with the Power of Dreams Award at the Jerusalem Film Festival on July 17, 2025.



Rosalie Agrow, President of the Hadassah Ketura group, honoring Gal Gadot at a Ketura event.





New Israeli website gets down to the roots of nature's medicine chest



For the first time, an open-access website called Florapal (<https://florapal.org/>) serves as a botanical encyclopedia of plants native to the Holy Land – an area botanically known as “Flora Palaestina” – a term first used by Linnaeus in the 18th century to describe plants native to this region today. It comprises the State of Israel, the Palestinian Authority (Judea and Samaria or West Bank), Gaza, and western Jordan.

The site itself describes 316 native species and over 2,000 uses, including medical as well as non-medical applications such as food, spice, soap, dye, beverages, cosmetics, perfume, cleaning products, preservatives, veterinary care, agriculture, poison, and insect repellents. The term Flora Palaestina, was first used by Carl Linnaeus, the 18th-century Swedish biologist and physician who is famous for his work in taxonomy – the science of identifying, naming, and classifying organisms. In the 2nd century, Roman Emperor Hadrian renamed the territory of Judea as Palaestina as part of an effort to suppress Jewish nationalism after the Bar Kochba revolt and erase the memory of the Jewish presence there.

Florapal – an English-language website but with colloquial plant common names also provided in Hebrew and Arabic – is the first of its kind. The contents are “a rich legacy that is rapidly being lost as societies develop and modernize,” said Dr. Sarah Sallon, who established 30 years ago and continues to run the Natural Medicine Research Center (NMRC) of the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem. “Sadly, according to recent surveys, some 400 species are now on the ‘Red List’ of endangered species, while in the West Bank, about 5% are critically endangered,” she said in an interview with The Jerusalem Post.

Sallon and her team, together with Palestinian researchers at BERC (The Biodiversity and Environmental Research Center in Til Nablus), have just published a peer-reviewed article titled “Florapal an ethnobotanical website of Flora Palaestina reflects changing patterns of plant use in this region during the mid-20th to 21st century.” The detailed article will undoubtedly arouse interest among professionals and others who care about botany and this region.

Today, hospitals and clinics have replaced healers, while village economies once dependent on local plant resources have largely been replaced by manufactured and imported goods. As a result, said Sallon, “a rich legacy of plant use acquired by Jews and Arabs over hundreds of years is rapidly being lost.”

The current study is part of a larger project between Israeli and Palestinian researchers supported by USAID-MERC (United States Agency for International Development-Middle East Regional Cooperation Program). One of her partners includes Dr Elaine Solowey of the Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Kibbutz Ketura in the Arava.

The team has found that 50 species are still being used for the same conditions that were utilized seven decades ago, such as diarrhea and dysentery among others. Newer uses showed some plants now being used for conditions like weight loss and high cholesterol. “The olive tree has been found to be used not only to make olive oil but also to treat many medical problems,” Sallon added.

Dr. Sallon concluded that “Florapal is an important educational resource that preserves the [historical legacy of plant use in this region](#), contributing to their conservation, research, and development.”

ADVOCACY

Georgia
Solidarity
Network

The non-stop Delta Air Lines route from Atlanta to Israel is an integral link between the U.S. and our ally Israel. Business travelers, tourists, and families have all spoken out to say they want this route back as soon as possible.

To continue fostering stronger economic, cultural, and diplomatic ties between the Southeastern United States and Israel, we are asking you to take action calling on Delta Airlines to resume non-stop flights from Atlanta to Israel.

<https://share.google/bjjSmA6JvkWLoSGsV>

Tell Congress to Stand with Israel, Fight Antisemitism and Advance Women's Health

We need Congress to stand by Israel and speak out to secure the safe and immediate release of the remaining 50 hostages, many of whom have been murdered, and who reports show have been tortured and sexually abused by Hamas. We also need our leaders to address the alarming surge in antisemitism across the country and stand up to protect and advance women's health. **Tell your lawmakers to act quickly on Hadassah's priority issues.**

<https://p2a.co/fFRmRxI>

ACTION ALERTS

Receiving Advocacy Alerts will allow you to do the following:

- ♦ Quickly speak out about antisemitism
- ♦ Receive Hadassah alerts supporting Israel
- ♦ Hadassah alerts advocating for the well-being of women
- ♦ Hadassah alerts reinforcing Jewish values



Click the link below to **SIGN UP NOW! WE NEED YOU!!**

<https://www.hadassah.org/get-involved/advocate-take-action>

Condemn Hamas for Weaponizing Sexual Violence!



Carol Ann Schwartz, National Hadassah President urging the U.N. to hold Hamas accountable for sexual violence against women.

Thanks to your advocacy, the United Nations has officially blacklisted Hamas for committing sexual violence in its October 7, 2023, attack on Israel and against the hostages it continues to hold in captivity.

For almost two years, Hadassah advocates like you have spoken out to demand that the UN take this important first step toward justice. Your voice matters, and your advocacy is spurring real action.

We can't stop here. We must acknowledge this move and [tell the UN to advance justice by holding Hamas accountable for these crimes against humanity](#).

For the second year in a row, the UN is reporting record levels of conflict-related sexual violence. Holding Hamas accountable is critical to deterring other groups from weaponizing sexual violence.

ACT NOW

To advance justice for Israeli men, women and girls, and for survivors of sexual violence across the world, tell Secretary-General António Guterres to hold Hamas accountable and condemn the weaponization of rape!

Opportunities for action are always available at our [National Action Center](#).

Register Now for Hebrew@Hadassah

We are once again offering our online Hebrew language classes on Mondays in the fall to all members and Associates. Classes cover vocabulary and conversational Hebrew and are 50 minutes long. The semester costs \$99 and runs from **September 8 through December 22**. These classes are available at three levels:

[New Beginners](#) (1 pm ET), [Beginners](#) (2 pm ET) and [Intermediate](#) (3 pm ET)



High Holy Days Reflections to help you more fully experience and enjoy these Holy Days

Rosh Hashanah is the first of the “High Holy Days,” and begins the most spiritually intense part of the Jewish year – the *yamin nora'im*, the Days of Awe. The Days of Awe begin on Rosh Hashanah and conclude on Yom Kippur, a total of 10 days. According to the tradition, on Rosh Hashanah the wholly righteous are inscribed in the Book of Life. For the rest of us, judgment is suspended until Yom Kippur, when our good works and acts of repentance during those 10 days can tilt the balance in our favor so that we may live. These 10 days are devoted to a careful examination of who we are in an attempt to become cognizant of the ways we have failed – failed others, failed our own selves, and failed God. This is the time given to ask forgiveness to those you might have failed, hurt, or offended during the past year. During this period, emphasis is placed on the sincerity of one’s repentance.

Yom Kippur means “Day of Atonement.” It is a day set aside to atone for the sins of the past year. This day is essentially our last appeal, our last chance to change God’s judgment, to demonstrate our repentance and make amends so that we may be written in the Book of Life.

Yom Kippur atones only for sins between humanity and God, not for sins against another person. To atone for sins against another person, you must first seek reconciliation with that person, righting the wrongs you committed against them if possible. This must all be done before the conclusion of Yom Kippur. In Judaism, the word “sin” has different connotations than it does in our wider culture. “Sin” in Judaism is generally not something for which a person will be punished in the afterlife, but is rather an improper act for which one can ask forgiveness – not just of God, but (importantly) of other human beings as well. While the origins of the Kol Nidrei prayer are uncertain, during the Middle Ages and subsequently thereafter, Jews were often forced to vow allegiance to Christianity, while continuing to practice Judaism in secret. Through this prayer, they begged God to forgive them and release them from such vows made under duress. Today, Kol Nidre remains part of the liturgy because of its historical associations, its inspirational melody, and its great beauty.

On Yom Kippur we undergo a process of intense self-reflection. We ask ourselves how we can do better in the eyes of God and other human beings, and we search for wisdom, willpower, and compassion. The process of teshuvah helps to set right some of our wrongdoings, and in so doing, helps us to be partners with God in the creation of a better world.

Each person is bidden to raise a fist in protest against all that is wrong in the world... greed, violence, pollution, and human-made miseries of every imagined sort. But the fist of protest is not raised against the world or any of its suffering inhabitants. Rather, the fist of protest is raised in rage or anguish, but ultimately is lowered to one’s own heart in the sad realization that no amount of rage or self-righteousness will mend all that needs mending unless the mending begins in one’s own heart. ***Shana Tova!***

SEPTEMBER 2025 MONTH AT A GLANCE

GROUP	PROGRAM	DATE & TIME	CONTACT
MONTHLY PROGRAMS—SEPTEMBER 2025			
Etz Aviv Noontime Nosh Book Club	Book Exchange at Vespucci's Italian Kitchen	Tuesday September 2nd 10:00 am	Adrienne Clayman
Ketura Knit/Crochet Group	 Knit/Crochet	Monday September 8th 2:00 pm	Lisa Slotznick
Ketura Book Club	The Wall at the Sugar Factory By Sherry V. Ostroff	Monday September 15th 7:30 pm	Arlene Glass
Metulla On The Same Page Book Club	The Ice Queen By Alice Hoffman	Friday September 19th 1:00 pm	Sandy Barmak
Etz Aviv Evening Book Club	Baker of Lost Memories By Shirley Russak Wachler	Wednesday September 24th 7:00 pm	Faith Shatzman
HGA Study Group	Screening of Henrietta Szold Video	Friday September 26nd 10:30 am	Wendy Kalman
Mt. Scopus Book Club	The Great Gatsby By F. Scott Fitzgerald	Tuesday September 30th 1:00 pm	Sondra Epstein

Tuesday, September 16—PRIMEtime—Trip to Ellijay for apple picking, cider sipping & hay rides.

Sunday, October 5th—Ketura Hadassah —Cooking Demonstration with Michele Weiner-Merbaum.

KEY CONTACTS

DONATE



President

[Terry Nordin](#)

Communications VP

[Betty Fendrick](#)

Newsletter Editors

[Katie Kloder](#)

[Deborah Kloder](#)

Treasurer

[Judy Bart](#)

Education & Program VP

[Anita Otero](#)

Membership VP

[Rosalie Agrow](#)

Secretary

[Faith Shatzman](#)

Click on the respective name to obtain information about our Chapters, Groups, programs and volunteer opportunities.

QUESTIONS? FEEDBACK?

We want your input on the newsletter.

katierkloder@gmail.com

To donate to Hadassah, go to the website at:

www.hadassah.org

HADASSAH CARDS & CERTIFICATES:

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EACH GROUP, THEIR LOCATIONS, AND PROGRAMS, HERE ARE THE MEMBERS TO CONTACT

ETZ AVIV: [Judy Bart](#), [Judy Lebow](#) or [Faith Shatzman](#)

KETURA [Rosalie Agrow](#)

METULLA: [Mindy Cohen](#) or [Lara Rush](#)

MT. SCOPUS: [Marilyn Perling](#)

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS: [Linda Liss](#)

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., 40 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005 is registered with the Georgia Secretary of State. The following information will be made available upon request in writing to Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. at 40 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005 /Attn: Finance Department, or by calling (212) 355-7900: (i) a full and fair description of the program for which the solicitation is being made, and if different, a description of the programs and activities of Hadassah and (ii) a copy of Hadassah's current financial statement.

REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY ANY STATE/COUNTY.

Charitable deductions are allowed to the extent provided by law. Hadassah intends to respect your wishes regarding this gift, however in accordance with U.S. tax law requirements regarding deductibility of contributions, Hadassah shall have full dominion, control and discretion over this gift.