

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Hadassah Members,

Hag Purim Sameach!

Hadassah has a special connection with Purim. Hadassah was established at the time of Purim in 1921, and took the name from Queen Esther, the heroine of the Purim story whose Hebrew name is Hadassah. She bravely revealed her Jewish identity and ultimately saved the Jewish people from extinction. Purim reminds us of the importance of raising our voices to combat evil and to bring about change.



One of the easiest ways to do this is to sign up for Hadassah's Action/Advocacy alerts. These alerts will keep you up to date on what is going on and how you can have your voice heard. To sign up for Action/Advocacy alerts: GO TO: <https://hadassah.quorum.us/>

Hadassah is working on several issues this year. We encourage everyone to register to vote. On November 3, 2026, US voters will elect 35 US senators, 435 US representatives and 36 governors, and decide on important statewide ballot measures. These choices will impact our communities and the issues we care about in countless ways — from standing with Israel to combating antisemitism to championing protections for women's health.

Hadassah is advocating for reproductive choice in courts, state legislatures, governor's offices, Congress and the Administration. Through Hadassah for Choice, Hadassah advocates are speaking out, educating our communities, and taking action to protect reproductive freedom across the country.

As always, Hadassah supports Israel. The United Nations has become a global stage for actions that seek to isolate and delegitimize Israel, the only Jewish state. Recent threats to expel Israel from the international forum set a dangerous precedent and rewards terrorists. Congress is considering the bipartisan, bicameral Stand with Israel Act (H.R.7018 | S. 1521) that would send a strong signal of support for our ally, Israel. This bill would bar the United States from funding any UN agency if Israel is illegally expelled from the UN.

The Hadassah promise is connecting and empowering Jewish women to effect change. We do this by fostering women's leadership. We shatter glass ceilings and build bridges. We've spoken out against hate and for those who couldn't speak out for themselves. We've helped bring medical breakthroughs around the globe and been on the frontlines when terror strikes. I am proud of all we do.

Hag Purim Sameach – Enjoy your hamantaschen.



Terry

IN THIS ISSUE

- [President's Message](#) p. 1
- [Upcoming Events](#) p. 2
- [Georgia & Atlanta News](#) p. 3
- [Advocacy](#) p. 4
[p 5, p. 6](#)
- [Action Alerts](#) p. 5
- [Purim Facts](#) p. 7
- [Hadassah Hospital Happenings](#) p. 8
- [March Calendar](#) p. 9
- [Cards and Certificates](#) p. 10
- [Key Contacts](#) p. 10
- [Donate](#) p. 10



UPCOMING CHAPTER, GROUP, REGION AND NATIONAL EVENTS



HADASSAH GREATER ATLANTA
ETZ AVIV
REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE AT OUR

Chai Tea

PUT ON YOUR PEARLS,
YOUR GLOVES,
AND DON'T FORGET
YOUR FASCINATORS!

JOIN US FOR
A JOLLY GOOD TIME!

SUNDAY,
MARCH 15
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

ADDRESS PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION.

REGISTER ONLINE WITH THE QR CODE



Theatre Party

HADASSAH GREATER ATLANTA METULLA
INVITES YOU TO

A THEATRE PARTY FEATURING
FORBIDDEN BROADWAY:
*GREATEST HITS. IRREVERENT,
SATIRICAL SONG AND DANCE –
FUN FOR ALL WHO LOVE THE
MAGIC OF BROADWAY!*

JOIN US!

WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 11
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM
IN SANDY SPRINGS

ADDRESS PROVIDED UPON REGISTRATION



REGISTER ONLINE WITH THE QR CODE OR VISIT: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/HGAMETULLATHEATREPARTY26](https://bit.ly/HGAMETULLATHEATREPARTY26)

Chocolate Seder

Hadassah Greater Atlanta
presents another PRIMETIME event

All are welcome
To the 2nd Annual Chocolate Seder

You are cordially invited to a meaningful and scrumptious
CHOCOLATE SEDER! Search for the afikoman, enjoy Passover
trivia and riddles. Don't miss the laughter & fun!

Sunday, March 29
1:00pm - 3:30pm
In Alpharetta



Registration required
<https://bit.ly/HGACHocolateSeder>



4th Annual Georgia Legislature and Judiciary Welcome Shabbat

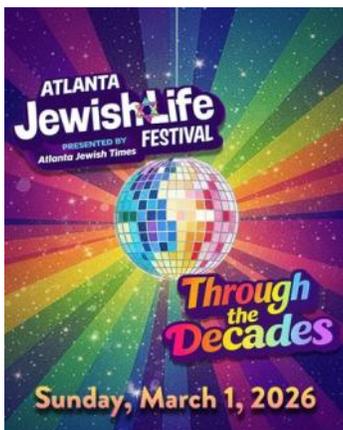
Hadassah Life Member Representative Esther Panitch (District 51) was one of the Honorary Co-Chairs of the 4th Annual Georgia Legislature and Judiciary Welcome Shabbat held at Temple Beth Tikvah in Roswell, Georgia on Friday night, January 30, 2026. Now in its fourth year, this Atlanta American Jewish Committee event aims to warmly welcome state legislators, local elected officials, and judges to mark the beginning of the legislative session by connecting with the Jewish community through a rich Shabbat experience.

Simone Wilker, Advocacy Chair for Hadassah Greater Atlanta and the Southeastern Region, explains, "This annual program continues to transcend political boundaries, fostering dialogue and collaboration among individuals from both sides of the aisle. I was proud to represent Hadassah at this gathering on Shabbat."

Esther Panitch stated that, "We are grateful that all the hostages have been returned home to their families after 843 days. The Jewish community's resilience continues to remain ironclad and our legacy in Georgia remains strong."



Esther Panitch, left, Georgia State Representative, District 51, and a Hadassah Life Member, joins Simone Wilker, right, Hadassah Advocacy Chair, at the fourth annual Georgia Legislature and Judiciary Welcome Shabbat sponsored by AJC.



- ☑ One of the BEST deals in town for discounted Georgia Aquarium tickets (aquarium access from noon until close the day of the festival)
- ☐ Free henna, cotton candy & tons of kids' activities
- ☐ Live entertainment
- ☐ So much delicious food to explore

Buy Tickets

<https://www.bigtickets.com/e/ATLjewishtimes/AJLF2026->

Please Sign Up For Action/Advocacy Alerts: GO TO: <https://hadassah.quorum.us/>

These are the three areas that Hadassah is advocating for in 2026.

A: HADASSAH VOTES!!!

On November 3, 2026, US voters will elect 35 US senators, 435 US representatives and 36 governors, and decide on important statewide ballot measures. These choices will impact our communities and the issues we care about — from standing with Israel to combating antisemitism to championing protections for women’s health — in countless ways.

Follow this 4 point plan:

- 1) Register to Vote:
- 2) Make a Plan/Find your voting place
- 3) Research the Issue
- 4) Vote and Share



For more information on registering to vote, becoming a poll worker or important issues, click on here: <https://www.hadassah.org/get-involved/vote>

B: WOMEN’S HEALTH

Hadassah is advocating for reproductive choice in courts, state legislatures, governor’s offices, Congress and the Administration. Through Hadassah for Choice, Hadassah advocates are speaking out, educating our communities, and taking action to protect reproductive freedom across the country. We need your help.

<https://hadassah.quorum.us/campaign/150250/>

C: SUPPORT ISRAEL

The United Nations has become a global stage for actions that seek to isolate and delegitimize Israel, the only Jewish state. Recent threats to expel Israel from the international forum set a dangerous precedent and reward terrorists. Congress is considering the bipartisan, bicameral Stand with Israel Act (H.R. 7018 | S. 1521) that would send a strong signal of support for our ally, Israel. This bill would bar the United States from funding any UN agency if Israel is illegally expelled from the UN. Urge lawmakers to stand with our ally Israel and support this bill today! **GO TO:**

<https://hadassah.quorum.us/campaign/standwithisrael%20%C2%A0/>

**HADASSAH
ON THE HILL
DAY OF IMPACT**



A POWERFUL DAY OF ADVOCACY

As a Hadassah supporter, you want to use your voice for good. Register for Hadassah On The Hill: Day of Impact, which is on March 10, in Washington, DC. Join us to meet with members of Congress and drive real change on important issues: strengthening the US-Israel relationship, standing up to rising antisemitism and championing women's and public health.

Sign up for this powerful day of advocacy: <https://www.hadassah.org/hadassahonthehill>



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!!**

How to **SIGN UP** for **ADVOCACY ALERTS**:
go to www.hadassah.org

Click **GET INVOLVED**
Click **ADVOCATE WITH US**
Click **TAKE ACTION**
THEN **SIGN UP.**



Celebrating Tu Bishvat: Hadassah And The Jewish Earth Alliance Urge Georgia's Two Senators To Protect The Earth.

The Jewish Holiday of Tu Bishvat, celebrated this year starting Sunday evening, February 1, 2026, and continuing on Monday, February 2, 2026, is commonly called The Birthday of the Trees. There could not be a better time to meet with our two United State Senators from the State of Georgia to talk about preserving our planet. Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, addressed climate change through environmental advocacy, education and initiatives rooted in Jewish values, focusing on sustainability, environmental justice and Israel's green efforts. We joined with the Jewish Earth Alliance to support their issues and policies to protect our precious Earth.

The Jewish Earth Alliance (JEA) is an all-volunteer grassroots network of 50 organizations across the country, consisting of people who deeply believe that protecting the Earth is integral to our Jewish identity, faith, and practice. The JEA believes that climate change is a moral challenge that demands an urgent response. JEA is mobilizing Jews to stand up and raise a loud, collective voice for policies that they feel reflects their values.

Bill Witherspoon, the Georgia lead for the Tu Bishvat 5786/2026 JEA Lobby Day, explains, "Each year on or around Tu Bishvat the Jewish Earth Alliance enables Jews throughout the country to raise our voices and work with our members of Congress to take action to protect our planet. This year we were privileged to meet on zoom with staff members from both of our Georgia United States Senators; Senator Jon Ossoff and Senator Raphael G. Warnock. We asked them to take strong and consistent action to protect all people and heal our precious Earth."

Simone Wilker, Advocacy Chair for Hadassah Greater Atlanta and the Southeast, states, "At Hadassah, we believe that each of us has the power to heal our world. For us, that means bringing healing - in every sense of the word - where it's needed most, in the US, Israel and around the globe."

Every day, Hadassah members are speaking out in multiple ways — from sending messages to meeting face to face with elected officials — locally and on the Hill. Hadassah's founder, Henrietta Szold, saw suffering and took action, bringing emergency health care to mothers and their infants in pre-state Israel. Henrietta's passion is in our DNA and continues to drive Hadassah to make a better world for all.

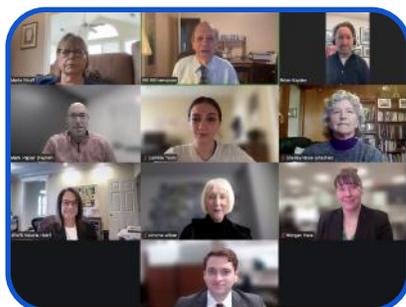
Hadassah and the Jewish Earth Alliance are committed to empowering their members and supporters to take action in a variety of ways. Because they believe that there are women and men who care, Hadassah and the Jewish Earth Alliance are a dynamic force for change.



Hugging a Tree in Honor of Tu Bishvat, the Birthday of the Trees: Left, Simone Wilker, Advocacy chair for Hadassah Greater Atlanta and the Southeast Region and, Right, Bill Witherspoon, Georgia Lead for the Tu Bishvat 2026 Jewish Earth Alliance Lobby Day, ask our Georgia State Senators to protect our planet.



Zoom call for Tu Bishvat to United States Senator Raphael Warnock of Georgia on behalf of The Jewish Earth Alliance, asking him to protect the Earth.



Zoom call for Tu Bishvat to United States Senator Jon Ossoff of Georgia on behalf of The Jewish Earth Alliance, asking him to protect our planet.



Nine Things You Didn't Know About Purim



1. Esther was a vegetarian (or at least a flexitarian).

According to midrash, while Queen Esther lived in the court of King Ahasuerus, she followed a vegetarian diet consisting largely of legumes so that she would not break the laws of *kashrut* (dietary laws). For this reason, there is a tradition of eating beans and peas on Purim. (After all, you'll need something healthy after all the booze and hamantaschen.)

2. Mishloach Manot

You're supposed to find a go-between to deliver your mishloach manot, the gift baskets traditionally exchanged with friends and family on Purim. The verse in the Book of Esther about mishloach manot stipulates that we should *send* gifts to one another, not just give gifts to one another. As a result, it's better to send your packets of goodies to a friend via a messenger, than to just give them outright.

3. **The Book of Esther is one of just two biblical books that do not include God's name.** The other is Song of Songs. The Book of Esther also makes no reference to the Temple, to prayer, or to Jewish practices such as *kashrut* [keeping kosher].

4. **Hamantaschen** might have been designed to symbolize Haman's hat — or his ears or pockets. Some say these cookies represent Haman's ears (in Hebrew, *oznei Haman*, means just this), and refer to a custom of cutting off a criminal's ears before his execution. Another theory is that the three corners represent the three patriarchs whose power weakened Haman and gave strength to Esther to save the Jews. Yet another theory: Because the German word *tasche* means "pouch" or "pocket," the cookies could signify Haman's pockets and the money he offered the king for permission to kill the Jews. Finally, in recent years, some feminists have suggested the cookies, which after all, are not dissimilar in appearance to female reproductive parts, were meant to be fertility symbols.

6. **The Book of Esther, which many scholars theorize is fictional, may be an adaptation of a Babylonian story.** Some scholars argue that the Book of Esther adapted stories about these pagan gods — Marduk becoming Mordecai and Ishtar transformed to Esther — to reflect the realities of its own Jewish authors in exile.

7. **The Jewish calendar has a regular leap year with two months of Adar (but only one Purim, which falls during the second Adar).** To ensure that the holidays remain in their mandated seasons, the Jewish calendar was ingeniously adjusted to accommodate the 11-day difference between the lunar and solar years. In the 4th century C.E., Hillel scheduled an extra month at the end of the biblical year, as necessary. The biblical year begins in spring with Nissan and ends with Adar. Hillel, and the Sanhedrin (Jewish supreme court) chose to repeat Adar (Adar I and Adar II) every 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th, and 19th year over a 19-year period.

8. **Purim is celebrated one day later inside walled cities than it is everywhere else.** The Book of Esther differentiates between Jews who lived and fought their enemies for two days within the walled, capital city of Shushan and those who lived in unwalled towns, where only one day was needed to subdue the enemy. Accordingly, if a person lives in a city that has been walled since circa 1250 B.C.E., as Shushan was, Purim is celebrated on the fifteenth of the month of Adar, a day referred to as "Shushan Purim."

9. **Just after the 1991 Gulf War, Israel's most popular Purim costume was of the Israel Defense Forces spokesman who appeared on TV every time a Scud missile alert sounded** — and people snacked on "Saddamantaschen" instead of hamantaschen. Spokesman Nachman Shai's "reassuring tones earned him the sobriquet 'National Valium,'" while Israel was being pelted with Iraqi missiles. That year, while many costume-makers avoided the temptation to make Saddam Hussein costumes, bakeries hawked "Saddamashen," which "look and taste exactly like Hamantashen."

Hadassah-Helmsley Netivot: Advanced Medicine For The Residents Of Southern Israel



A historic development in Israel's south:

- The Hadassah Medical Organization announces "Hadassah-Helmsley Netivot," a new, innovative medical center designed to provide residents of Netivot and surrounding communities with advanced diagnostic treatment and ongoing medical care close to home. According to the framework agreement, which was signed prior to the outbreak of the "Swords of Iron" war, Hadassah's expert medical teams will travel south to the new center, making the world-class knowledge, expertise and tools of an internationally renowned university hospital accessible to residents of the region.
- **Hadassah Medical Organization Director General Yoram Weiss, MD:** "The establishment of a medical center in the city of Netivot is a defining national milestone and a recognition of the full right of southern residents to receive advanced, high-quality medical services."
- **Mayor of Netivot Yehiel Zohar:** "The establishment of 'Hadassah-Helmsley Netivot' is truly a transformative milestone for the city and for the entire Western Negev. For years, we spoke about the need for real change for the residents of the south and today we are bringing it to life. "The residents of Netivot and the surrounding area deserve advanced medical care, leading specialists and innovative technologies exactly like those available in the center of the country. The new medical center brings a message of equality, quality of life and medical security for our families. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Hadassah Medical Organization's leadership; to Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America; and to the Helmsley Charitable Trust for their confidence in the city of Netivot and for the strong partnership that has turned vision into reality. This is another significant step in making Netivot, a leading metropolitan center in the south, a city that continues to grow, develop and provide its residents with the very best."

The **Hadassah Medical Organization** – one of Israel's leading university medical centers – together with its parent, **Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America**, and in partnership with **The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust**, and **all the Israeli health funds (HMOs)**, has established *Hadassah-Helmsley Netivot*. Helmsley is committed to improving healthcare for everyone in Israel, and are pleased to play a role in supporting Hadassah-Helmsley Netivot, this vital extension of one of Israel's premier hospitals, so that the people of Netivot and the surrounding areas will now have access to the medical innovation and care that they deserve.

The center will serve more than **150,000 residents** of Netivot, the western Negev and the Gaza envelope communities, providing high-quality medicine delivered by Hadassah's expert physicians and supported by advanced and innovative technologies. At Hadassah, this is viewed as a dramatic step with broad national significance, bringing essential medical services closer to residents' homes and eliminating the need for long, exhausting travel to distant medical centers, a reality that has persisted for decades. The center will provide residents with access to top-tier specialists and advanced medical equipment, enabling care across a wide range of specialties.

National President of Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Carol Ann Schwartz: *"The medical center launched in Netivot represents a moment of renewal and hope, and a clear expression of the vision that has guided Hadassah – to develop and make accessible high-quality, advanced and equitable healthcare for every citizen everywhere in Israel. Expanding healthcare services to the periphery is not a one-time initiative but part of a deep commitment to Israeli society as a whole to strengthen the south and reduce disparities."*

MARCH 2026 MONTH AT A GLANCE

GROUP	PROGRAM	DATE & TIME	CONTACT
MONTHLY PROGRAMS—MARCH 2026			
Etz Aviv Noontime Nosh Book Club	The Silent Patient By Alex Michaelides	Tuesday March 6th 10:00 am	Adrienne Clayman
Ketura Knit/Crochet Group	Knit/Crochet	Monday March 9th 2:00 pm	Lisa Slotznick
Metulla	Theatre Party (See flyer above)	Wednesday March 11 7:30—9:30 pm	Sharyn Lazarnick
Etz Aviv	Chai Tea (See flyer above)	Sunday March 15th 1:30—3:30 pm	Ellen Levine
Ketura Book Club	One Hundred Saturdays: Stella Levi & the Search for a Lost World By Michael Frank	Monday March 16th 7:30 pm	Arlene Glass
Etz Aviv Ladies of the Evening Book Club	Caitlin Clark & the Revolution in Women's Sports By Christine Brennan	Wednesday March 25th 7:00 pm	Faith Shatzman
HGA Study Group	It's not just Sex! Dr. Ruth Westheimer and Hannah Senesh	Friday March 27th 10:30 am-12:00 pm	Wendy Kalman
PRIMEtime	Chocolate Seder	Sunday March 29th 1:00-3:30 pm	Michele Weiner- Merbaum

KEY CONTACTS

DONATE



President:

[Terry Nordin](#)

Treasurer:

[Judy Bart](#)

Secretary:

[Joan Solomon](#)

Membership VP:

[Faith Shatzman](#)

Communications VP:

[Betty Fendrick](#)

Education & Program VP:

[Anita Otero](#)

Newsletter Editors:

[Katie Kloder](#)

[Deborah Kloder](#)

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

To donate to Hadassah, go to the website at:

www.hadassah.org

HADASSAH CARDS & CERTIFICATES:

Ketura: Susan Adair - sulyroad@aol.com

Mt. Scopus: Cards: Phyllis Hoffman - Phyllishoffman17@yahoo.com

Mt. Scopus: Certificates: super-south@hadassah.org

Etz Aviv: Judy Epstein -

HeyJude825@gmail.com

Metulla: Cards: Susan Levine -

Suejer0731@aol.com

Metulla: Certificates: Nancy Schwartz -

nshadassah2016@comcast.net

Health Professionals: Cards: Phyllis Hoffman -

Phyllishoffman17@yahoo.com

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

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS: [Marcy Steinberg](#)

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

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

MT.SCOPUS: [Marilyn Perling](#)

QUESTIONS? FEEDBACK?

We want your input on the newsletter.

katierkloder@gmail.com

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.