

Women's News and Stories

Hadassah President's Message

By Debby Rosenberger

While the outcome of any election can have tremendous impact on public policy decisions and debates, this year's race is particularly significant, as five Supreme Court seats may become vacant, the selection of a new president and a new majority in Congress can affect the policies of our country for the next 20 years.

Changes in our government may impact many issues of importance to Hadassah and its members, including reproductive rights, US-Israel relations, healthcare, church-state separation and many others. With so much at stake it is vital that we, as women and Jews participate in this election.

Low levels of American voter

participation stand in stark contrast to nations throughout the rest of the world. In the 1996 presidential election less than half of American voters participated. This past year for the Israeli national elections 79% of registered Israelis voted.

For anyone not convinced of the importance of voting, consider the historical importance of one vote:

* In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.

* In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States.

* In 1923, one vote gave Adolph Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.

* In 1941, one vote saved the Selective Service weeks before

Pearl Harbor was attacked.

* In 1960, one vote per polling site would have elected Richard Nixon rather than John F. Kennedy to the Presidency.

One of our most precious rights as Jews and as women in America is the right to vote. It is doubly precious because it has been ours so rarely in history. Political leaders are responsive to those constituents who are most vocal about their interests. We must continue to express our interests by voting. When women and Jews don't vote, their voices are not heard and their rights suffer. Remember, every action counts and every vote counts. ☆

June Walker to Speak at Board Meeting

On Monday, October 22, at 7:30 June Walker, Hadassah's National Treasurer and a member of Hadassah's National Board and Executive Committee will speak at an open board meeting.

Prior to becoming treasurer June served as National Vice President and National Chairman of the Hadassah College of Technology. She was also Chair of the American Affairs/Domestic Policy Department. In this capacity, she campaigned for Representative Barbara Boxer's Violence Against Women Act, launched educational programs on the radical right and healthcare,

brought Curriculum Watch into reality across the country, developed national participation in two marches in Washington for women's rights, and conceived, wrote and distributed "The American Scene." The various initiatives that were created during her tenure led to the development of the Washington Action Office and a fully staffed National Department of Women's Health.

The rest of June's bio is just as impressive, and she is a dynamic speaker. We look forward to seeing all of you at this exciting event. ☆

Hadassah National Convention 2001: Impressions of Jerusalem

By Roz Cooper

It's still Eretz Yisrael. It's still the eternal home of the Jewish People. It's still the most beautiful and spiritual place in the world, but it is different now. The change is evident everywhere.

People think twice before leaving their homes. They don't trust anyone or anything. They are angry and scared. After only two weeks in Israel, I understand these feelings.

I just returned home from the Hadassah National Convention in Jerusalem. Nearly 600 Hadassah women and Associates gathered in Israel in a year when many groups cancelled their trips and changed their plans. I am really proud to be part of an organization that never abandons our brothers and sisters in Israel, Hadassah is a Zionist organization whose members know that actions speak louder than words.

The Convention was spectacular. Everyone we met thanked us for being in Jerusalem during such difficult times. We were treated like visiting royalty. They wined us and dined us and made sure that everyone drank lots of water and stayed as safe as possible.

We visited the sites of our Hadassah projects. The work that Hadassah does in Israel came alive for all of the Convention delegates. The hospitals are state of the art. Students from our Youth

Aliyah villages taught us how to arrange flowers and ride a zip line (ask your kids what that is). We rode jeeps on the Burma Road and learned all about our partnership with JNF. At the College of Technology we were overwhelmed by the talent of our stu-

Everyone was getting comfortable and complacent. We were all congratulating ourselves on coming to

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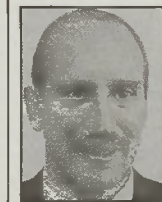


Roz Cooper, far right, joins her Hadassah colleagues overlooking Jerusalem.

dents and impressed by the stories of people helped by the Career Counseling Service. Our visit to Beit Riklis, Young Judaea's home base in Jerusalem, gave us a brief and exciting glimpse into the great Israel programs available for American young people. Hadassah makes us all proud.

The quality of the programs was outstanding. Prime Minister Sharon addressed the opening meeting. We heard from the Mayor of Jerusalem, the President of the State of Israel and world famous rabbis. The North Carolina delegation even got to meet with Senator John Edwards! We all felt well received and well educated.

Everything was wonderful.



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Coming to Charlotte: Al Galgalim

Al Galgalim is a Jewish family education program for parents or grandparents and pre-school age children. Discover the joys of being Jewish in this hands-on, pressure-off friendly environment. The introductory session will be November 4 at 4:00 PM at the JCC as part of the Jewish Cultural Arts Festival. Call Sharon Kasman, 704-442-2163 to make a reservation. ☆

IVRIT LA HADASSAH

Learn Hebrew now!

Shalav Alef will meet beginning October 16. Call Anat Peles, 704-341-5924 for more information.

Hadassah Lunch and Learn

Last year a dozen or so women met once a month for lunch. Not so amazing, right? But what was both amazing and wonderful was the topics of their discussion. Once a month they read a chapter in Hadassah's wonderful Rosh Chodesh book, *Moonbeams*, and discussed the women's view of a single Jewish topic: wearing tallitot and tefillin; dressing and behaving modestly; finding a feminist voice; and so much more.

Hadassah's popular Lunch and Learn Study Group will reconvene on October 16 at 12 noon in the Board Room of the JCC. The study group dates for this year are: October 16, November 13, December 11, January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 14.

Bring a lunch and join us on lively, provocative discussion. ☆

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