

# WOMEN'S NEWS

## Celebrating Henrietta

By Heidi Rotberg, President, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

Every moment of our life we make decisions. Some are life changing choices while others appear minor at the time, but may eventually have a profound impact on our life and the lives of others. When Henrietta Szold began on her journey, little did she realize the impact of those early decisions. Celebrating the accomplishments of great American women, Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah, will be inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls on Sunday, October 7. She is one of nine women - five who are historical figures - who will be inducted into the nation's premier organization that recognizes and honors extraordinary American women.

Each of us is responsible for the quality of our lives and so we want to choose our paths wisely. Although today, women spend much time juggling their volunteer and career and family efforts, there is still that commitment to make a difference. Henrietta



Szold, our visionary founder, awakened in all of us the spirit of volunteerism and the powerful message that we, too, could make a difference. Through her efforts, and those that followed in her footsteps, we have been endowed with this amazing legacy called Hadassah.

Today, the American volunteer corps is filled with women dedicated to social change. Through our network of 300,000 volunteers, we continue to prosper reaching out in new and creative ways for women and families as our core message remains constant. We have grown and flourished in America and in Israel with our ongoing determination and courage. Where others saw darkness, we saw the promise of a brighter future.

Now is the time to recognize our fullest potential and make those positive choices that impact and changes people's lives. In acknowledging our personal responsibility to persevere in our efforts, we continue to carry forth Henrietta's legacy for generations to come. ☆

## got blue form?

The Charlotte Area Jewish Community Directory form has recently been mailed to you for this upcoming 2008 year.

If you haven't received your Blue Directory Form by now, you can go to our website: [www.charlottehadassah.org](http://www.charlottehadassah.org) or go to the JCC and pick up your form at the reception desk.

If you have moved within the Charlotte area since last November, let us know what your new address is so you can be correctly listed in the Community Directory. You may have your telephone or cell phone numbers changed, so please write in the new numbers and which number you wish to be contacted at.

The form is due by the first of November 2007, but why wait? I got Blue - do you?

Any questions: please contact Judy Kaufmann - Directory Chair at 704-847-1022 or Ivy Saul - Personal/Advertisement Chair by e-mail at [isaul@carolina.rr.com](mailto:isaul@carolina.rr.com). Please put Hadassah in the subject line. ☆

## "Sins of Omission," a Non-Fiction Book in Observance of Domestic Abuse Awareness Month

Temple Beth El's Book Group, "Chapters," hopes you'll plan to join us for our first meeting this New Year at 3 PM on Sunday, October 14.

Set during October, Domestic Abuse Awareness month, our meeting will take place in the Temple's Chapel where we'll discuss *Sins of Omission* by Carol Goodman Kaufman, a nonfiction work.

Our facilitator led discussion will explore the subject of

domestic abuse in Jewish households, hoping to raise our awareness and consciousness; and helping us gain perspective, understanding, and compassion for those amongst us who may silently suffer. Guests are welcome and no RSVP is necessary.



Please call Lynne Cojac at 704-541-3358 or e-mail at [LCojac@aol.com](mailto:LCojac@aol.com) with questions. ☆

## Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter

### Book Club

The Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter Book Club generally meets at 7 PM on the first Wednesday night of each month at a member's home or at Barnes & Noble in Birkdale Village. For October, the book Club will meet on Wednesday, October 10, at 7 PM to discuss "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls, at a member's home address. For more information please contact Penny

Caruana by e-mail at [penchie@adelphia.net](mailto:penchie@adelphia.net).

### General Meeting

The Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter has grown from a "circle extension of Charlotte Hadassah" to a separate Hadassah Chapter. The Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter is chartering a new chapter celebration with wine and food on Monday, October 14 at 2 PM for members, guests and family. Check to Hadassah for \$10 and

RSVP by mail to Robbie Damesek. For more information contact Penny Caruana by e-mail at [penchie@adelphia.net](mailto:penchie@adelphia.net).

### Fund Raiser

The Hadassah Lake Norman Chapter is having a Jewelry Show and Fund Raiser with wine and cheese social on Sunday, October 28 at 2 PM to welcome new members. For details and RSVP, please contact Penny Caruana by e-mail at [penchie@adelphia.net](mailto:penchie@adelphia.net). ☆

## In Anti-Poverty Project, Group Enlists Leaders to Live for a Week on \$21

By Jacob Berkman

New York (JTA) — Jewish communal executives and non-Jewish politicians spent the week between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur living on a budget that would barely cover the price of an appetizer at a power lunch.

To kick off a yearlong initiative on poverty, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs enlisted people to live for a week on \$21 — the national average for food stamps benefits.

Among those participating were heads of local Jewish federations and Jewish community relations councils, as well as several lawmakers, including the only Muslim member of Congress, U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN.).

The poverty issue has essentially fallen off the radar screen for much of the Jewish community, said the JCPA's executive director, Rabbi Steve Gutow.

"We are no longer connected to the communities from which the poor usually come," Gutow said. "We're not as close to the Hispanic community or the

African-American community, and we need to re-galvanize that. Part of our strength as American Jews is that we have always been able to connect with different groups, and we need to get back to that."

Jews are not immune to poverty. Between 8% and 9% of American Jews live below the poverty line, which in 2006 was \$16,079 for a family of three and \$20,614 for a family of four. America's overall poverty rate is higher — and growing.

According to numbers culled from the 2006 census by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 12.3% of Americans live below the poverty line. Also, some 15.8% of Americans — or 47 million — were without health insurance. There were 2.2 million more uninsured children in 2006 than in 2005.

The numbers of uninsured and impoverished have been increasing since the 2001 recession, despite a rapidly growing economy. In 2001, when the economy bottomed out, 11.7% of

Americans lived below the poverty line and 14.1% of Americans were uninsured. The median income for non-elderly household has declined since then from \$56,062 to \$54,726.

JCPA officials say they will try to engage local Jewish communities in more grassroots programming to address five areas linked to poverty: hunger and food insecurity, affordable housing, public health and environmental justice, health care and education.

Each month the JCPA plans on highlighting one poverty initiative tied to a Jewish holiday or event, according to the organization's director of policy, Hadar Susskind. It will work with the local JCRCs to provide programming ideas, speakers and networking opportunities to help tackle poverty issues on the ground.

Local JCRCs are pleased that their national umbrella group is trying to re-emphasize the poverty issue in a Jewish landscape in which it is often overshadowed by efforts to advocate for Israel and

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**Top 25!** Maddy's

At the 2007 industry awards ceremony, Maddy's was named to the "Top 25" craft galleries in America by Niche Magazine.

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