

WOMEN'S NEWS

On Courage

By Heidi Rotberg, President, Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah

Anniversaries bring festivities as well as moments for reflection. This month, as we rejoice on Hadassah's 96th birthday the celebration is, as always, tied to Purim and the legendary, heroic story of Queen Esther. In March we also honor Women's History Month and so the intersection of these three markers inevitably brings us to celebrating heroines of every kind.

It is the rescue of the Jewish people by Queen Esther in a critical moment in our history, and the founding of Hadassah by Henrietta Szold in a momentous time of strife and turmoil, that we find two women who changed the course of the Jewish narration. In each instance, saving generations of peoples began with a single visionary woman.

Every moment in our lives we make choices. Some of these are life changing while others seem unimportant at the time. All choices have consequences. We always hope that we chose wisely toward a path for positive results and success. From Esther we learn that if we use all our resources, we can find solutions to fight hate and evil; from Henrietta we learn that we have within us the capacity and ability to challenge indifference. From both women we learn the valuable lesson that risk and courage are inexorably tied, one to the other.

Today, thousands of women, Jews and non-Jews alike, continue in this mold and choose to act boldly, to advocate to improve people's lives and in so doing, make a difference in our world. In celebrating Purim, Hadassah's birthday and Women's History Month, we honor each woman who has had the courage to step forward and make her voice heard. Teddy Roosevelt wrote of bravery, "The credit belongs to the man [woman] who is actually in the arena ... who strives valiantly ... in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, who at the worst ... at least fails while daring greatly."

Esther and Henrietta dared greatly ... and their successes resound through the centuries. ☆

Temple Israel's book club will meet for a discussion of *Those Who Save Us* on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:15 PM in the Levine-Sklut Jewish Library and Resource Center at Shalom Park. Stephanie Starr, Executive Director of Jewish Family Services, will be on hand to address some of the psychological implications raised in the book.

The book discussion is free and open to the community. See detailed story on page 26.

Watch for New Hadassah Directory at Purim Carnival

The 2008 Hadassah Directory of the Charlotte Area Jewish Community will debut at the Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 16.

Patrons can choose to stop at the Hadassah table and pick up their copy of the directory or it will be mailed to them soon thereafter. Copies will also be available for sale.

Directories will be available for purchase for \$20 at the following locations: Phil's Deli, Temple Beth El and Temple Israel gift shops and the JCC reception desk.

The 61st edition of the Directory contains listings of our Greater Charlotte Jewish residents. Along with the continuing and grateful support of our Patrons and local advertisers, the profits from the Hadassah Directory go to

medical research. This year the Directory has grown tremendously with new names and places to patronize.

Please note: the editors have constantly strived for accuracy and apologize for any inadvertent errors. Please contact Judy Kaufmann (704-847-1022) or Ivy Saul (isaul@carolina.rr.com and put Hadassah in the subject line) for any additions/corrections. ☆



"Essen and Kibbitz"

The Play: Fund Raiser for the Sarah Wetsman Davidson Tower, Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem

Prelude: "Essen and Kibbitz"; buy raffle tickets for great prizes; "Chinese Auction"

Act 1: Women are enjoying lunch at City Tavern in Stonecrest on Rea Road for only \$15.00. It's Sunday, April 13, at 12 noon. They know they only have until 2:30 PM to buy their tickets for great prizes. The excitement begins ...

Act 2: The cash comes out ...

the pens are drawn "I want that." One lady buys twelve tickets. "No, I want that." Another buys 20 tickets. Now, let's see who wins.

Finale: Everyone wins. Money was made, and it's a happy ending for the "Tower."

To be part of this excitement, make your checks out to Hadassah for \$15.00 (includes tax and gratuity), by March 20, to: Audrey Herman, 8905 Elrose Place, Charlotte, NC 28277.

Hurry, seating is limited. Your check reserves your seat. ☆

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