

"Yad B'yad B'yachad"

by Leslie Berro

"Hand In Hand Together" was the theme for this year's 80th National Hadassah Convention held July 31-August 3, 1994 in New York City. What may have begun as a slogan, ended as a battle cry and the re-energization of this 3,000 mostly women attendees of an international organization of over 385,000 members.

The first evening's excitement began with a special video greeting from Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, followed by such illustrious speakers as Wolf Blitzer, CNN Senior White House Correspondent. Professor Shmuel Penchas, Director General of Hadassah Medical Organization, gave a rousing address concerning the humanitarian aid Hadassah carries out throughout the world, helping Jew and Gentile alike; trauma specialists sent to help those in the terrorist attack in Buenos Aires. How many are aware that four out of the nine doctors in Rwanda are from Hadassah hospital, which set up the first and only field operating hospital in this highly distressed area? I learned about these and many other mitzvot created by Hadassah.

Many workshops from Jewish Education to Zionist and American Affairs (with some heated discussions re the "religious right"), were held during the convention and showed the diversity of concerns and interests of its membership. There was literally "something for everyone."

Several new programs were introduced. One such educational program for children called, "Gal Gallim...." is a structured plan of lessons to help mothers and fathers teach their children through words and music about the Jewish holidays, Hebrew letters, etc. I have to say, this one was really an awful lot of fun!

We are delighted to announce that Ellen Hershkin, Hadassah's National Young Leaders chairman, will be in Charlotte on Oct. 27. Gabriela Warat will be hosting a young leaders party and program in her home. If you are interested in coming and need further information please contact Lynda White at 541-8317.

A Place for Young Women

by Leslie Berro

If I learned anything from my participation at the 80th National Convention held in New York City, it is that Hadassah is not a bubble brigade of elderly women who have nothing to do but pass around photos of the grandkids. It is a vital organization for Jewish women of all ages, consolidating their individual talents for a common good. A growing number of well-educated, Jewish women in their 20's and 30's have found in their local Hadassah chapters, an outlet for their professional, social and creative energies as well as a special camaraderie and support system.

I met and spoke with several of these women. Some are busy professionals and business owners. Others have taken time out from their career track to concentrate on child rearing. Many were introduced to Hadassah by their mothers. Three generations of Hadassah Life Members is not uncommon.

But what is Hadassah?

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., is comprised of individual chapters of women volunteers whose primary purpose is to raise funds for medical and educational projects for the benefit of Israel and the Jewish population worldwide. Each Local Chapter falls within a local region, which in turn falls under a Greater Region. Charlotte is part of the Southern United Network (SUN).

And to think that it all began with an idea of one woman, Henrietta Szold, over 80 years ago and without any funds, to better the medical conditions in what was then, Palestine. This year alone, in excess of \$82,000,000 was raised! That is an empowering message for women, indeed!

Want to join? Contact Ellen Block at 362-0082.

B'nai Brith Women Announce New Officers

President: Presidium
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Hadassah and Temple Israel to Co-Sponsor Hebrew Classes

by Suzanne Cannon

Beginning Friday, September 23, and continuing forward, the Charlotte chapter of Hadassah, in conjunction with Temple Israel, began offering Modern Hebrew classes. Roz Cooper is teaching the classes, which focus on developing skills in both reading and understanding Modern Hebrew. The course curriculum, known as *Ivrit la Hadassah*, was designed and developed by the National Hadassah organization, and uses what is called the "Whole Language Approach" to learn. This method immerses students in both reading and conversational exercises. Prior knowledge of Hebrew is neither necessary nor required for taking this course.

Classes will meet weekly at Temple Israel in Friday mornings from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. The fee is \$25 and covers the cost of materials needed for the course. Class size will be limited to 12. For further information or to reserve a space in the class, contact Roz Cooper at the Temple Israel Education Office at 366-5007, ext. 257.

HaLailah Chapter B'nai Brith Women

This coming year BBW is reinstating a special project - the Judaism Institute. The goal of this project is to educate School Board Members, Board of Education Members, Teachers in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, both public and private, and our friends in the non-Jewish community, on Jewish holidays and traditions. Our target date for this project is the end of October or the beginning of November. If you would like to help, please call Wendy Rosen (364-9765).

The Speizman Jewish Library planned a reading incentive program which was piloted this summer and will continue throughout the next school year. Encouraging children ages 6 to 12 to read Jewish literature, prizes will be rewarded for 5 books read - a Treasure Chest prize, and 10 books read - a paperback book by a Jewish author. HaLailah board members voted unanimously to sponsor the book prizes, from donations to the Becky Schulimson fund.

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