



HADASSAH
Nurses & Allied Health
Professionals Council

NEWSLETTER Summer 2020



Welcome Message from the Council Chair

Dear Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Council member,

The Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Council was thrilled to honor our nurses at Hadassah's July meetings. In recognition of the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, as designated by the World Health Organization (WHO), over 500 participants heard the inspirational story of Hadassah nurses in Israel and the US and viewed a stirring photo montage of you and your colleagues.

Thank you to all of you who generously shared your pictures. You may think, "What's the big deal?" Let me assure you that by sending us your photo, you helped to make our presentation more complete and personal. The diversity of our council is truly impressive! To view the photo presentation, click [here](#). And to watch the entire celebration, click [here](#). You'll love it and feel incredibly proud and inspired.

Some important pieces of council news. Due to the current pandemic situation, our council trip to Israel is being postponed to 2022. We'll share details as we receive them.

We're eager for news about our local councils across the country. Please [drop us an email](#) and let us know about your current and upcoming programming, and anything else of interest. We'd love to share details in upcoming newsletters. Also, please be advised that our council's steering committee meets several times a year via Zoom. We'd love to have you participate, and if you're interested, let us know by [email](#). Our council is only as strong as our members, and every one of you is important to us.

Thank you again for all you do and being part of our council.

Best wishes,
Susan Lafer, RN
Chair, Hadassah Nurses & Allied Health Professionals Council



**Meet a Member:
Lisa Friedman, MSN, CPN
San Antonio, TX**

"I have worked in some aspect of nursing for 25 years. I began my nursing career after graduating from the University of New Hampshire, when I was commissioned into the US Air Force as an RN and was stationed at Travis AFB in California. I then moved to the Pediatric ICU at Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. It was here that I discovered that pediatrics was the field for me. While finishing up 8 years on active duty, I met and married my husband, earned my MSN and settled into the role of Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

This past winter, through a partnership between Hadassah and Momentum, I had the honor and pleasure of leading a group of San Antonio women on a journey to Israel where we met Jewish mothers from around the globe and developed a special bond with Hadassah members from California and Florida. This opportunity of a lifetime was given to nine other applicants from the Aviva group of Hadassah, who are now in turn giving back to the local community through outreach and other educational programs. The women on this trip visited many important historical locations in Israel, were inspired by dynamic trip leaders and were fortunate to visit Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) and Meir Shfeya's Youth Village. Unbelievably, one of my fellow Hadassah leaders was a long lost friend from my Hebrew school days. It feels like yesterday when we were Bat Mitzvah candidates watching our own mothers as Hadassah members. Nearly 35 years later, we are active Hadassah members and planning B'nai Mitzvot for our own children!"



**Ask an HMO Nurse:
"Which is your favorite specialty?"**

Ruth Radiano,
RN, BSN, MPH, Policy & Nursing Management Nurse Specialist
Director of Nursing
Hadassah Mount Scopus University Hospital

"In thinking about my professional life, I realized that in every role I have played, I've loved something unique to that particular role. As a nurse in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, I have always been excited by the wonderful ability of children to recover from extremely difficult situations. I also tried to think of the parents: 'What do they need right now? What can I do for them in these difficult moments?' As a nurse in the Pediatric

Ambulatory Care Unit and in charge of the Pediatric AIDS Center, I put emphasis on accepting those who are different and the importance of not judging.

One of my significant experiences was as Head Nurse of the Department & Day Care for Bone Marrow Transplantation and Cancer Immunotherapy. While as a staff nurse, my care was fully directed to patients and families, and then as a head nurse, I conveyed those values to the amazing team I led for 8 years. As the team leader, I saw my main role as being responsible for the well-being of the team, both professionally and personally, so that they had the motivation, skills, abilities and values to give of themselves to others.

As a Nurse Director of the Hemato-oncology and ER Division, I saw my primary purpose in nurturing excellent head nurses who would then, in turn, foster excellent nurses themselves. I have invested in growing a leadership generation who knows how to best integrate first-class professionalism with compassion and soul.

For the past two years, as the Director of Nursing at Hadassah Hospital Mount Scopus, I have had a great responsibility. First and foremost, I ensure quality and safe care for our patients, who trust us and put their lives into our hands.

All of my experiences have combined professional duties, fascinating encounters with people, and learning and development. They all connect to my love for people, both patients and staff, a deep satisfaction in giving to others who are in difficult life situations, and the immense significance and value in the work of a nurse.

Thank you for the privilege you have given to me to review my professional life, especially during this challenging and complex time. I love my profession and am more than ever, proud to be a nurse!

Support Our Nurse Colleagues in Israel



In honor of the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, we celebrate our Hadassah nurses! On January 18, 1913, Hadassah sent two trail-blazing American Jewish nurses, Rose Kaplan and Rachel Landy, to pre-State Israel. Little more than two months later, Hadassah brought healing to Jerusalem. We were pioneers, setting the standards for quality nursing care at our Hadassah medical centers and academic nursing education at our Hadassah Henrietta Szold Hebrew University School of Nursing. Help secure a strong future for our nurses. Consider making a [donation](#).



JOIN US!

Upcoming Webinar:

Medical Marijuana: Highs & Lows, Smoke & Mirrors

Tuesday, September 15 at 8:00 pm ET

Dr. Jordan Tishler, a noted Harvard doctor with years of experience in the field of cannabis, will separate fact from fiction and address all your questions about when, how and why to treat certain conditions with cannabis – and when not to. This is open to all. Please share with anyone who might be interested. [Click here to register](#).

A Nurse's Personal COVID Story



Rachel E. Spector, RN, PhD, is a long-time Hadassah member and founding member of the Hadassah Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Council. In her 60 years of working as a practicing nurse and teacher specializing in public health, she has encountered patients with many communicable diseases. However, she had never encountered anything similar to the pandemic that we're all facing, and never thought she herself would be a patient. Click [here](#) to read her incredible story.



All About Achotenu

Achotenu is a revolutionary academic nurses training program. In 2014, Achotenu (which means both 'my nurse' and 'my sister' in Hebrew), reached out to Hadassah, sharing that many Ethiopian immigrants aspired to be nurses but needed academic and financial support. It was through the very generous bequest of Patricia Lapan (of blessed memory), a Jewish Zionist American nurse and philanthropist, as well as with the most recent support of Hadassah International Australia, that Hadassah once again was able to meet the needs of a special population, while simultaneously addressing the nursing shortage in Israel.

Today, Ethiopian-Israeli young adults are in a five-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing track at Hebrew University's Henrietta Szold School of Nursing. [Watch this compelling interview](#) with Barbara Sofer, Israel Director of Public Relations for Hadassah, and Ethiopian nursing student, Yehudit Yirmias. [Don't forget to read this article](#) to learn about the Achotenu nurses' compelling stories.



Webinar Recap: Science and Social Justice

Paula Apsell, Hadassah member and the winner of a Lifetime Achievement Emmy for her role as senior executive producer for PBS's acclaimed NOVA series, was the speaker on a recently held professional councils' webinar. This program, titled "Understanding the Role of Science in Promoting Social Justice and Improving our Lives," was held on July 28.

Paula was interviewed by Lisa Hostein, Executive Editor of *Hadassah Magazine*. Paula explained how science plays an integral role in promoting social justice. She showed a short clip about the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, as an example of citizen science making a difference as the residents gathered data on their own. Paula also shared a preview of a NOVA episode that documents how scientists discovered escape tunnels created by Jews during the Holocaust in Lithuania.

Paula spoke at length about women in technology, and particularly the importance of encouraging girls and young women to pursue careers in STEM, providing examples from her personal and professional life. She also referred to the disparity in hiring minorities in the workplace and how best to solve this problem. Throughout this webinar, Paula emphasized how science can provide practical solutions to some of the world's most persisting problems, such as global warming.

This illuminating webinar was sponsored by Hadassah's Professional Councils, which include the Nurses and Allied Health Professionals Council along with the Physicians Council and the Attorneys and Judges Council. Watch the recording [here](#).



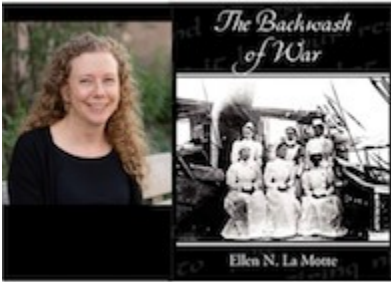
Podcast Update: The Branch

The newest episode of Hadassah's podcast, The Branch, visits with two midwives, a Jewish and Arab Israeli at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem. It follows their story about helping women deliver babies during the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the midwives, Gila Zarbiv, who has spoken several times at our council programs, was the first in Israel to help a COVID-positive woman to deliver. Click [here](#) to listen to this captivating episode.



A Hadassah Nurse's Empathy

Libbie Goldstein is a maternity nurse at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem. Two years ago, when she met a patient in the maternity ward whose experience mirrored what she herself had gone through, she reached out with empathy and kindness. [Read](#) more about what ensued after this incredible nurse-patient encounter.



Amazing Tales of a Nurse Crusader

Hadassah New York Nurses Council's Zoom meeting on July 12 featuring the extraordinary Cynthia Wachtell, PhD. It was titled "Amazing Tales from a Nurse Crusader." The talk featured the stories of an amazing nurse and writer: the little-known Ellen N. LaMotte.

Dr. Wachtell had us spellbound as she described the numerous battles LaMotte fought, starting with her enrollment in the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in 1898 against her family's objections. She traveled abroad to be a suffragette. She volunteered during WWI in France at an Army field hospital and reported on the ethical dilemmas in the ward, becoming a prominent and widely published anti-war journalist. She emerged as a public health leader in the TB crisis in Baltimore, trying to promote quarantining over general precautions. She was a vocal activist against police brutality, and she also predicted and tried to prevent the opium crisis coming from the Far East. Her experiences greatly resonate with our present day.

Dr. Wachtell is currently the Research Professor of American Studies at Yeshiva University. She discovered the anti-war activities and writings of LaMotte while she was pursuing graduate studies at Yale, researching WWI anti-war activities. Her work came to the attention of our Lillian Wald chapter through a *New York Times* [op-ed](#). View the presentation [here](#) (starting at the 12-minute mark; use passcode 9E\$v6pCw.)



Local Council News

The Nurses Council of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (now referred to as CHW) was formed in 1995 under the guidance and support of Nancy Falchuk, the 24th Hadassah National President and co-founder of the Hadassah National Center for Nurses Councils. An outreach was forwarded to all Jewish nurses in the province of Quebec inviting them to attend a Hadassah International reception that was held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Montreal, Quebec. A positive response was immediate. For the most part, the nurses were graduates of the Jewish General Hospital School of Nursing.

The rest is history. Over the years, this group has met consistently through programming and fundraising activities. The original mission of the group was to raise money to support the Nursing Department at the Assaf Harofeh Hospital (now called Shamir Medical Centre), a satellite of the Hadassah Henrietta Szold Hebrew University School of Nursing, in the form of scholarships for students to pursue their studies in nursing. Currently, the funds raised by the group support the overall budget of CHW. Our programs currently focus on providing community health forums, addressing a wide range of health-related issues including memory disorders, bone and joint ailments, palliative care and end-of-life decisions. Our most recent forum was on medical cannabis and was well-attended, met with appreciation, enthusiasm and many questions.

To this day we remain the only Hadassah Nurses Council in Canada. Although most of us are now retired, our primary focus remains on health issues facing communities today. We are very proud of our work and, in addition to the fundraising we have accomplished, we have become a close-knit group of friends.

Inspiring Moment from the "Nurses Above and Beyond" Ceremony

May 11, 2020, Nurse Moriah Barkassa, Pediatrics Department, speaking on behalf of three award winning nurses at Mount Scopus:

"I would like to thank all our dear management not only for this honorable ceremony and award, but for the process itself, meant to acknowledge our work and appreciate our investment in what we do. We, the nurses, work with love and a sense of mission, no matter how difficult it is. This recognition today is not just for me. It is for all of us, a tribute making us feel how significant our work is, and how much our work is valued ...

Hadassah Mount Scopus is Hadassah's special gem in the crown. This campus is the foundation of Hadassah's work in Israel. We who work here feel the presence of Henrietta Szold in whose footsteps we walk. In addition to leading professionalism and excellence, there is a cross-sectoral caring among staff, patients and management. During such difficult times of global uncertainty, I feel fortunate to be working in Hadassah where there is deep concern with the safety of its staff ...

We would like to thank Hadassah women for their continued support throughout the years. Just as you were a major factor in the establishment of the Israeli health system, the same is true with the current pandemic. We are in the forefront of fighting the epidemic in Israel, and know Hadassah women support us, the nurses, on the ground ... May our prayers be answered speedily in our time. Thank you."



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