**President’s Message, January 2022**

At the beginning of a new year, it is natural to both reflect and look forward. There is much to remember about Hadassah’s remarkable accomplishments in 2021 and exciting plans for the future.

**Youth Aliyah Update**: [In October 2021, the Mandolin Orchestra](https://www.hadassah.org/story/mandolin-orchestra-from-youth-aliyah-village-performs-in-jerusalem) from Meir Shfeyah Youth Aliyah Village performed with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in a thrilling concert honoring Hadassah’s Keepers of the Gate. You can enjoy a recording of the concert titled [“Youth Aliyah: The Magic, the Music, the Mission.”](https://www.dropbox.com/s/qdg8v87dj57urj8/YA_v4.mp4?dl=0%20)

**HMO Updates**: [In 2021 Prof. Donna Zfat-Zwas](https://www.hadassah.org/story/hadassah-empowers-arab-women-to-make-the-most-of-their-visits-to-the-doctor), director of Hadassah’s Linda Joy Pollin Women’s Cardiovascular Wellness Center, in cooperation with the Jerusalem municipality, developed a two-session course to empower Arab women to make the most of their visits to the doctor. During these sessions, the women learn how to prepare for physician appointments in advance. They also learn how, when meeting with their physicians, to take control and have their questions answered. A similar Pollin Center program proved successful with ultra-Orthodox Jewish women, who reported an improved relationship with their physicians.

HMO researchers continue to work to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. [A recent study](https://www.hadassah.org/story/protecting-the-yet-to-be-born-from-covid-19) revealed that newborns are better protected from COVID-19 if their mothers are vaccinated between weeks 27 and 31 of their pregnancies, rather than later on in the third trimester. According to the study, authors Dr. Amihai Rottenstreich, Dr. Shay Porat and Prof. Dana Wolf state that “when pregnant women are vaccinated during this window of time, their unborn babies receive a higher level of antibodies than those inoculated later in the pregnancy.” These important findings are published in the November 3, 2021, edition of *Clinical Microbiology and Infection.*

**Hadassah Podcast Update**: [Be sure to check out the best of Hadassah’s 2021 podcasts.](https://www.hadassah.org/story/the-best-hadassah-2021-podcasts) These remarkable programs have been chosen and organized for you to easily access. It is a selection of 18, a Jewish celebration of life and Hadassah’s impact! In the mix: *Hadassah on Call: New Frontiers in Medicine*goes behind the scenes at Hadassah’s hospitals; *The Branch* takes you into the lives of Jews and Arabs in Israel creating a shared society, and *Women of Vision*features inspiring women who have seen a need and taken action.

**Looking Forward: Advocacy:** Hadassah will continue to advocate for Israel, for the well-being of women and against health care disparities. We continue to be steadfast in our fight against antisemitism and hate. Congress continues its 117th session in the new year, and Hadassah will once again need all of your voices to support our action items. You can continue to make a difference by communicating directly with your legislators on issues that matter to you. [Sign up for Hadassah’s Advocacy Alerts](https://www.hadassah.org/get-involved/advocate-take-action) and stay informed on the latest legislation before Congress and on opportunities to take action.

**The highlight of 2022** will certainly be [Hadassah's 100th National Convention Together in Israel: Our Power. Our Purpose](https://www.hadassah.org/100th-national-convention). The convention will take place in Jerusalem on November 14–17, 2022. Connect with fellow members and savor Israeli history, art and culture through a variety of track choices – and leave invigorated and inspired to continue your support for Hadassah and for Israel. Take advantage of our special early bird discount and **save $250 per person when you register by February 28**.

Happy New Year!