**President’s Message, September 2021**

Jews all over the world readily recognize the High Holy Days as the ten days between Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. This sacred time in the Jewish calendar prescribes an array of behaviors. On Rosh Hashanah we celebrate with honey and apples and bid each other a sweet New Year. On Yom Kippur we fast and contemplate our transgressions with fresh resolve to continue the work of improving ourselves and the world around us. As Hadassah members we have much to celebrate and much work to pursue.

**HMO Update**: In the face of COVID-19, this year has been especially challenging for the medical professionals and staff at Hadassah’s hospitals. That is why it is with [tremendous pride that we celebrate](https://hadassah.webflow.io/story/hadassah-ein-kerem-and-hadassah-mount-scopus-named-israels-best-hospitals) Israel’s Health Ministry’s rating of both of the Hadassah Medical Organization’s hospitals as the best in their class in Israel for 2020. Hadassah Ein Kerem received first place in the major hospital category, and Hadassah Mount Scopus was awarded the top spot in the category of small-campus hospitals. Prof. Yoram Weiss, the acting director general of the Hadassah Medical Organization, says, “Hadassah teams have proven once again that with hard work, it is possible to achieve impressive results in the various areas of treatment, from infancy to old age, despite the difficult years our medical center has experienced.”

# Podcast Update: Hadassah On Call: New Frontiers in Medicine continues to produce quality podcasts updating listeners on the cutting-edge treatment and research we have come to expect from HMO. In the latest episode, [Can't Sleep? Here's What’s Keeping Us Awake](https://www.hadassah.org/episode/cant-sleep-heres-whats-keeping-us-awake)**, Dr. Joel Reiter,** head of HMO’s Sleep Clinic, is the learned guest. Dr. **Reiter trained as a**pediatric pulmonologist and a sleep disorder expert. Most of us know that stress or caffeine can be factors inhibiting a good night’s rest, but Dr. Reiter helps to make sense of the neurological, pulmonary and psychological processes that can ruin the sleep humans need for optimal health. His presentation style makes difficult concepts understandable for non-medical listeners. In his practice he is committed to understanding every patient’s individual life circumstances. Dr. Reiter makes a point to meet with every patient even before they undergo a sleep study so he can better meet their needs. “It’s building that relationship with the patient that I think is important.”

**Advocacy Update**: Rhoda Smolow, Hadassah national president, recently presided over the summer national meetings. [Among the important work](https://www.hadassah.org/press-release/hadassah-adopts-policy-statement-on-unrwa-accountability) accomplished at the meetings was the adoption of a new policy statement demanding accountability for antisemitic curricula and resources used in schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The policy statement “reaffirms and expands HWZOA’s commitment to combat antisemitism through education at home and abroad.” UNRWA is complicit by their silence. They continue to allow curricula of hatred and bigotry to reach hundreds of thousands of children. Rhoda states, “Hadassah’s new policy statement demanding accountability and oversight for UNRWA and Palestinian education doubles down on our dedication to combat antisemitism, safeguard Israel and build a more peaceful and tolerant world. We will keep pushing for permanent reform of UNRWA both at the UN and on Capitol Hill, where Hadassah advocates for the bipartisan Peace and Tolerance in Palestinian Education Act.” This is the work worthy of pursuit!

**Philanthropy Update**: This summer, two young women from Georgia found their world view truly expanding, thanks to an all-expenses-paid Israel experience. Liberty Lebos, of Savannah, and Sabrina Skolnick, of Atlanta, the 2021 winners of Hadassah’s Leaders of Tomorrow Award for Young Women, spent the summer on Young Judaea’s Gesher annual summer leadership program. On her return Liberty explained, “I had so many incredible experiences during my time in Israel and learned so much. I’m so grateful to Hadassah for allowing me to deepen my connection to Judaism and Israel.” We all have the power to heal our world, take action and make an impact. This High Holiday season honor the future with a contribution to the [Young Judaea Scholarship Fund](https://www.hadassah.org/donate/simple?area=young-judaea&s_src=email&s_subsrc=GM008821A-bigbutton%20).

*L’shanah tovah tikatevu*