

# Berkeley Hadassah

Central Pacific Coast Region

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**MAKING A DIFFERENCE. NOW IS THE TIME.**  
WWW.BERKELEYHADASSAH.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2008 • ELUL-TISHREI 5768-9  
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**R**osh Hashanah is a time of new beginnings. As you read through this newsletter, you will be impressed by some of the recent the medical breakthroughs from Hadassah Medical Organization that provide new hope and new beginnings for so many. We are proud to be a part of this. I look forward to working with all of you to continue the good work that we do.

Start your new year off with a healthy morning of easy exercise, and join us for our first annual Berkeley Hadassah's Point Isabel Community-wide Fun Walk/Run on October 26, a fundraiser for Hadassah Medical Organization. If you are not already a Hadassah member, please consider joining the largest Jewish women's organization in the world, over 300,000 strong. Your membership makes the difference.

May you enjoy a year of new beginnings, good health, happiness and peace. Shanah Tovah.

Susie Marcus, Berkeley Hadassah President

## 2008-2009 BOARD MEMBERS

*Susie Marcus, Rebecca Angel, Sandy Bacskai, Lauren Brandt,  
Tammy Plotkin-Oren, Sabrina Kabella, Julie Parker  
Ilyse Gordis, Nancy Wallach, Sharon Friedman,  
Shoshana Beary, Vivi Lang, Eileen Adams, Wendy Neufeld*



*Advisors: Ginette Polak, Joan Ominsky,  
Lois Marcus, Betty Seaton, Fran Alexander,  
Debbie Lesser, Linda Walker, Mary Ellen Doniger*

## Upcoming Events

### CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MUSEUM TOUR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

11:30 am at the museum

*Have you seen the new museum?  
Debbie Lesser, Hadassah member  
and docent, will be our guide!*

*For details and carpool information,  
contact Debbie, 510.848.0414.*

### LECTURE SERIES

SEPTEMBER 24 • 7:30 PM

*Rosh Hashana: A Celebration of the  
New Year for the People and for the Land*

OCTOBER 16 • 7:30 PM

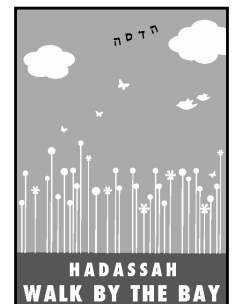
— 7:00 PM GENERAL MEETING PRIOR —  
*Our Relationship with Dance on Simchat Torah*

*See details on page 4.*

### COMMUNITY-WIDE BERKELEY HADASSAH WALK BY THE BAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26  
10:00 AM  
AT POINT ISABEL

*See page 7 for details.*



**OCTOBER 26, 2008**  
POINT ISABEL • BAY TRAIL

## Membership News

*We warmly welcome the following new*

— LIFE MEMBERS —

JANE OREBIC  
NANCY WERTHAN

*May you derive much pleasure  
from your association with Hadassah!*

*Membership Co-Chairs,  
Sabrina Kabella & Lauren Brandt*



**WE'D LOVE  
TO MEET YOU!**

*Our local chapter consists  
of women of all ages,  
interests, and levels of involvement.*

**BOARD MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 17**

**9:30 AM**

Meetings:

Oct. 15 • Nov. 19 • Dec. 17

**JOIN US FOR A COFFEE & TREATS.**

At the home of Susie Marcus  
40 Kensington Court, Kensington  
527.4811

*All are welcome • Bring a friend*

## Membership Form

- Yes, I want to join Hadassah (\$36)
- I want to give a Hadassah membership as a gift
  - (\$36) Annual
  - (\$360) Life
  - (\$300) Associate (Men)
- I want to become a Life Member (\$360)

Name of New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Address of New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (if known) of New Member \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail(if known) of New Member \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Please cut out this form and send  
with your check payable to Berkeley Hadassah*

*Hadassah Membership,  
c/o Mary Ellen Doniger,  
649 Alvarado Road, Berkeley, 94705*

*Or sign up online at [www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org)  
Be sure to designate Berkeley, CA as your local chapter.*

*An acknowledgement will be sent  
to the new member.  
Thank you!*

## Hadassah National Convention 2008 • Reach for the Stars

*By Susan Somerville, Berkeley and Dovey Schneider, Marin*

When Central Pacific Coast Region goes to the annual Hadassah Convention, they do it up swell. Sometimes, they wear the most chic chapeaus, but this year, sans chapeaus, PCR women turned out in numbers. There were upwards of 60 women. Everyone could derive information, networking, and spirit to bring back to her chapter from the whole experience.

A worthwhile session called BUSINESS MATTERS:

US/ISRAEL PARTNERSHIPS ran Sunday for six hours and included a buffet continental breakfast and a luncheon. One of the best panels was called Entrepreneurial Partners and included Glenn Yago, Director of Capital Studies, at the Milken Institute; Eli Tene, Co-Founder of the Israeli Leadership Club and owner of Peak Partners; Shai Aizin, the Israeli Consul for Economic Affairs in Los Angeles; and Nava Ben Zvi, President of Hadassah College Jerusalem. The following are some points gleaned from this session:

- 1) Though much hi-technology has been invented and developed in Israel, there is concern that China may by-pass us. Education is considered the answer.
- 2) At HCJ, educational theory is transferred to practice in the industrial sphere. For instance, some students designed comfortable, colorful, (Avocado green), modern looking shoes for women who suffer from diabetes; and these shoes come with an attachment that turns them from spring-summer-fall shoes into boots for the winter;
- 3) Children with recognizable talent are being academically tracked from age 13 into their army years so that their talents can be realized and eventually benefit Israel;
- 4) 7% of the Israeli people are generating 50% of the profits from the hi-tech industry;
- 5) The bottom line is that whether investing in venture capital funds or in Israel Bonds, the outcome will be beneficial!

The OPENING PLENARY was a thrill with glamour, hoopla, and music. It was fun and full of fantasy and set the tone for the Convention. Leah Reicin, one of the two Mistresses of Ceremonies narrated and presented with incomparable vitality and verve. She also was responsible for writing much of the scripts, into which she ingeniously quoted everyone from Rashi to Shmuel Agnon and Israel Zangwell, and great text from the Psalms to Gemmora.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Dalia Itzik, Speaker of the Knesset spoke. They made it clear that not

only has the US and Israel forged a strong relationship, but so have they followed suit in their relationship to each other. Singing was provided by a group of talented young women called The Ashira Sisters. They sang many familiar Israeli songs with a beautiful freshness in rendition, whether singing HaTikvah or The Star Spangled Banner or Jerusalem of Gold. 2500 people sang with them. The movie and TV personality, Henry Winkler, narrated a script that accompanied a video which showed the history of Hadassah and Israel. Happy 60th Birthday!

One controversial session was called WHOSE RIGHT IS IT ANYWAY? Leonard Cole, Ph.D, the Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University and Mark G. Yudof, the new President of the University of California, spoke about where the line should be drawn between our First Amendment Rights and hate speech. The question and answer period was more lengthy than usual due to so much concern about anti-Israel rhetoric and – downright anti-Semitism. It was determined that the securing of Constitutional freedoms is the chief determining factor in the continuance of freedom and liberty for all of America's people, not the least being the Jewish people here. Still, there was disagreement.

Judea Pearl, father of Daniel Pearl, the American journalist who was beheaded by Islamic terrorists, was part of a panel on ANTI-SEMITISM/ANTI-ZIONISM His delivery was poignant as he spoke about Jewish students on many college campuses who are ill-equipped to address these issues. Beside the lack of student preparation, there are other difficulties. In an era of split-second internet communication, biased websites reach millions of people; and these bigoted issues have global ramifications.

HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION/HADASSAH INTERNATIONAL was the last plenary/session that I attended before leaving LA. It is inspirational to learn of the medical accomplishments of Hadassah's doctors as they truly do Tikkun Olam! There is a trial-and-error use of advanced medical technology as they save lives and make people physically and emotionally whole again.

One example was that of Professor Neri Lалуfer, Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology: Through his work in the field of in vitro-fertilization, Dr. Lалуfer helped a young woman, who had no abdominal wall, to carry a baby full term and then to deliver it via C-section. It was this combination of Dr. Lалуfer's amazing breakthrough in cutting edge medical technology and his most compassionate and humble way – but not to forget the poignancy of the young woman's story – that made every one of us realize why we give to Hadassah: It is a partnership!

## New Hope for Diabetes

There is new hope for diabetes patients who run the risk of losing parts of their lower limbs to the disease. Dr. Alex Klimov, a senior physician in the department of Vascular and Interventional Radiology at the Hadassah Hospital at Ein Kerem, has developed a new technique for clearing obstructions to blood vessels in the lower leg. It is these blood clots that in many cases force doctors to amputate patients' limbs in order to save their lives.

The new technique can save patients' limbs in up to 90% of the cases. The procedure is a combination of several techniques which have been in practice for sometime, but through a process of evolution it is now possible to open very long segments of blocked arteries, to bring more blood to the affected limb, and thereby either prevent the amputation entirely, or limit the extent of the amputation from perhaps above knee amputation to just a digit, toe, or a small part of the foot.

In general, patients who have severe vascular disease in their lower extremities could also benefit from this procedure.

Dr. Allan Bloom, Head of the Department, indicates that "we are currently in the process of looking at our data and at long term benefit from this procedure. One of the advantages is that for patients who are unable to undergo surgery because of comorbid conditions, they could potentially have this procedure and then, if necessary, have it repeated at a later date. In some cases patients have gone under more than one procedure and still maintain their limbs."

## HADASSAH MOVIE NITE SAVE THE DATES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 8

6:15 PM QUICK SNACK • 6:30 PM SHOWTIME

\$10/Family • \$5/Individual

Join us to watch a short movie!

Riva Gambert will lead a discussion about American Jews, who we are, and where we are going.

FOR KIDS TOO! KID'S MOVIE SIMULTANEOUS.

All are welcome.

RSVP Ilyse Gordis, [ibgordis@yahoo.com](mailto:ibgordis@yahoo.com)



## MERKAVAH LECTURE SERIES

Join us as we introduce Merkavah to our community. Lectures are open to all.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24  
CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL • 7:00 PM  
"Rosh Hashana: A Celebration of the New Year for the People and for the Land"

Rosh Hashana is a new year for humankind as well as for the agricultural world. This lecture will explore the possible effects that the actions of the Jewish people have on the surrounding natural environment. The connection between people's actions and the prosperity of the land will be studied through Jewish sources.

This class will also touch upon two central themes of Rosh Hashana — introspection and celebrations of new beginnings.

HADASSAH GENERAL MEETING • 7:00 PM  
PRIOR TO OCT. 16 LECTURE  
— ALL ARE WELCOME —

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 7:30 PM  
CONGREGATION BETH EL  
*In the Sukkah, weather permitting.*  
"Michal Bat Shaul and Early Dance Criticism:  
Our Relationship with Dance on Simchat Torah"

Simchat Torah is a holiday in which we celebrate and express our elation through dance. The lecture will study an incident in Prophets in which Michal Bat Shaul criticized her husband King David, for dancing before the Ark with a full heart and free of inhibition. By analyzing Michal's critique as well as King David's pointed response, we will attempt to arrive at a deeper understanding of our own relationship with dance on Simchat Torah.

*MERKAVAH OFFERS WEEKLY CLASSES FOR WOMEN*  
*Merkavah, an exciting new school in Berkeley, is a pluralist women's institute for Jewish learning. Merkavah seeks to create inspiring and vigorous Jewish learning opportunities for women in the Bay Area. By creating courses in which Jewish women engage in the study of classical Jewish texts and philosophy, Merkavah strives to expand the leadership roles for women within the Jewish community, as well as to unite women from diverse Jewish backgrounds.*  
*Classes meet weekly, contact Dalia Davis for more information about registration, [merkavahberkeley@gmail.com](mailto:merkavahberkeley@gmail.com).*

## Personals

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Gail & Ralph Bernstein**, on their 50th Anniversary  
**Michelle Schwartz**, recently honored by the East Bay Jewish Community Center

**Bonnie Roditti**, on the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Sam  
**Flo & Moishe Pripstein**, on their 50th Anniversary

**Joan & Steve Ominsky** on the wedding of their son, Daniel

**Dorothy Golner** on the wedding of her daughter, Marcia

**Betty & Thom Seaton** on the birth of their granddaughter

**Linda and Bob Walker** on the birth of their new granddaughter

**Barbara Kanter** on the birth of her grandson

**Ilsa Marx** on her 91st birthday

**Ernie Weiner**, on his recent retirement from the American Jewish Committee

**Linda Peltz**, who was recently honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alta Bates Summit Foundation

### CONDOLENCES TO:

**Hope and Noah Alper** and family on the passing of her beloved mother, Lillian Ruth Finegold

**Leila Blumenfeld** and family on the passing of her beloved husband, Jerome

**Kathy Krohn** and family on the passing of her beloved husband, Harvey

**Estie Hudes** and family on the passing of her beloved brother, Gideon Glick

**Claire Barankin Wasser** and family on the passing of her beloved husband, Robert

*We realize this list is incomplete and encourage you to send personal information to [marcusdesign@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marcusdesign@sbcglobal.net).*



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## Artificial Heart

An artificial heart was successfully transplanted in a 40-year old woman at Hadassah Hospital. The woman suffered from congestive heart failure five weeks earlier. During her hospitalization her condition deteriorated and she developed a blockage in her myocardium. The staff at Hadassah decided to transplant an artificial heart to replace her failing heart and to stabilize her condition until a suitable heart for transplant could be found.

The artificial heart allows for time before a donor heart can be transplanted, and it can operate for couple of years. Prof. Shapira, who performed the transplant, indicated that "we have today the most progressive knowledge and the technology to offer a wide variety of treatments for people with congestive heart failure, and to enable us to be in the forefront of this kind of surgery."

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## THE HADASSAH BULLETIN

*Published six times annually.*

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Susie Marcus, President • 527-4811

*You may obtain a copy of Hadassah's Financial Report  
 by writing to the Hadassah Finance Dept., 50 W. 58th St., New York, NY 10019.*

— SUPPORT HADASSAH —

COMMEMORATE ALL LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

BIRTHS • BAR/BAT MITZVAHS • MEMORIALS

WEDDINGS • ANNIVERSARIES

Donate \$18 or more to Hadassah and have a beautiful inscribed certificate sent to the honoree in your name.

Call Lois Marcus at 848.5910 or fill out the form below and send to Lois Marcus, 1155 Woodside Road, Berkeley 94708

Enclosed is my check made out to Berkeley Hadassah for \$\_\_\_\_\_, please send an appropriate certificate to:

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Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of Name \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of Name \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion \_\_\_\_\_

Sent by \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



PERPETUAL YAHRZEIT IN ISRAEL

Who will say Kaddish for me?

Hadassah has made it possible for you to have Kaddish recited for your loved ones under the magnificent Marc Chagall stained glass windows at Hadassah's Medical Center in Ein Kerem, Jerusalem.

A meaningful certificate will be sent to the donor as well as annual notices to confirm the Hebrew Yahrzeit date.

Your \$1,000 donation supports the work of the Hadassah Medical Organization in healing, teaching and research, thus transforming loss into life-affirming mitzvot. Your tribute of Tzedakah in memory of your loved one follows the custom of our Heritage. Ask about extended credit card plans.

Call Edythe Heda 526.3237



— PLANT A TREE —

BLUE TZEDAKAH BOXES

Get a new Blue Box or have a full Box picked up.

Call Romy Douglass, 528.7411

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

A meaningful way to celebrate a joyous occasion or memorialize a loved one.

— \$10 PER TREE —

Call Florence Yaffe

235.0388

2009 CALENDAR

Fran Alexander once again has organized our calendar committee.

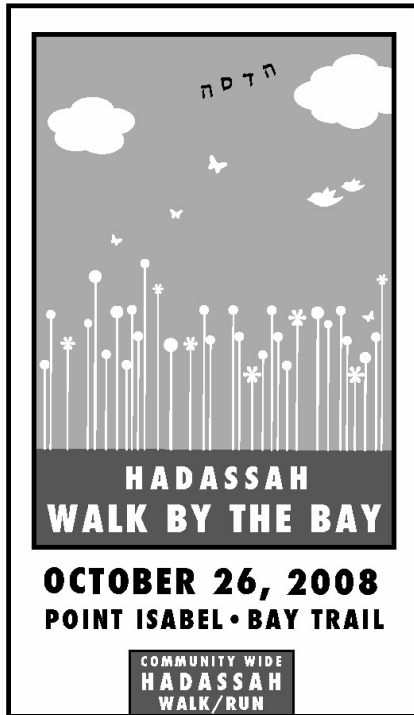
We are in the soliciting process with Hadassah Associate Joe Becker leading the way!

Thanks to all who participate in the calendar efforts!

Please send Fran your grandparent ad updates or Yahrzeit In Israel information:

Fran Alexander

1430 Lincoln, Berkeley, CA 94702



**COMMUNITY - WIDE  
BERKELEY HADASSAH WALK/RUN  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 • 10 AM  
AT POINT ISABEL**

**\$25/INDIVIDUAL • \$36/FAMILY**

*A casual walk to meet, chat and exercise!  
Flat paved course on the gorgeous San Francisco Bay Trail.  
Make it a leisurely stroll or a power walk or run.  
Choose your distance, any distance, up to 5 miles or less.  
Spouses, families & friends welcome!*

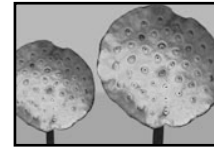
**BREAKFAST TREATS! • COFFEE & JUICE!  
FREE Pedometer! • MUSIC!  
SCAVENGER HUNT FOR KIDS!**

**DIRECTIONS!**

Take I-80 or 580 highway. Exit Central Ave. Continue towards the bay.  
The course begins at corner of Rydin Road and Central.  
If you go to Costco, you've gone too far!  
Parking available just past Rydin Road on Central. Look for parking signs!

Volunteer at registration table on the day of the event!  
Susie Marcus, 510.527.4811

**JOINING TOGETHER WITH BERKELEY HADASSAH**



*Discovery of 2,000 Year Old Seed*

A team of researchers at the Natural Medicine Research Center (NMRC) at the Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem, succeeded in growing a 2,000 year old date seed. Findings of the team's research are published in the prestigious "Science" magazine. They describe the germination process of the seed, its growth, and initial genetic analysis.

The date seed was discovered 40 years ago during the archaeological excavations of Masada, the palace built by King Herod on the shores of the Dead Sea. In NMRC's program aimed at conserving, developing, and researching the rich legacy of medicinal plants in Israel, the "Judean date" now extinct was of particular importance.

When the seedling was 15 months old, direct radio-carbon dating on shell fragments showed an age compatible with the Roman siege of Masada almost 2000 years ago, thus making it the oldest seed ever to be germinated. The Judean dates famous both as a prized source of food and as a valuable medicine.

"Our next stage will be to grow more dates in the hope of better understanding their genetics, and possibly breeding the ancient Judean Date as a modern one," says Dr. Sallon. "We need to reintroduce ancient crops and plants that once flourished in this region and to scientifically investigate them for their properties."

"As much as Hadassah is involved in the most modern medical technologies," adds Dr. Sallon, "it also promotes our desire to discover new cures for diseases out of ancient sources."

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FINANCIAL SERVICES PROFESSIONAL



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JOIN HADASSAH TODAY.

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Your membership counts!

Become a member or give a membership  
gift of Hadassah to a friend, daughter,  
son, or spouse. There is no better gift.

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