



THE **LIFESAVER**

Sharing in the glow from the torch that saves lives

Writing this column on the way home from Israel after attending an historic international conference of Magen David Adom, is indeed a great honour and privilege. This newsletter would explain why the conference was so significant but just one of the reasons was the extraordinary dedication by MDA NSW of 21 medicycles and an ambulance.

However, before we become too proud of our collective achievements, meeting MDA Israel's real heroes, its paramedics and volunteers who dedicate their own lives to save the lives of others, is a reality check on why our emotional and tangible support are so important. It is reassuring to know that, despite our geographic distance, we can and do make a difference on the ground in Israel.

A proud and exciting moment indeed at the conference was the historic ground breaking ceremony for an entirely new Blood Bank to cater for Israel's growing population and, by building it underground, providing extra precautions to protect Israel's safety and security. More about the Conference and new Blood Bank are included in this newsletter.

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I note the passing of a truly outstanding human being and wonderful friend, Linda Bermeister z"l, who has been reunited in heaven with her beloved husband, Allan z"l. As my highly respected predecessor, Allan brought me into the Magen David Adom family and showed great leadership and sense of community. His success was in no small way due to the support, encouragement and enthusiasm provided by his dear wife Linda. To Kevin & Bev, Yitzchak & Liat, Rebecca, Ilana & Jeff and all the adored grandchildren and sister May, our thoughts and prayers are with you. May Leah bat Dov Ber's precious memory be a blessing.



Vehicles dedicated by NSW – 1 ambulance and 21 medicycles

We were recently honoured to be invited to address the Christian Worldview Forum at Parliament House, Sydney about the history, activities and challenges facing Magen David Adom in Israel. More details appear later in this newsletter.

We are so proud that in 2016 Magen David Adom continues to enjoy, together with the IDF, top ranking amongst Israel's most admired organisations. On 28 November 2016, Yediot Aharanot published the results of a poll study conducted by the Rotem Research Institute, which surveyed over 500 people above the age of 18. The poll confirmed that Israelis have for years loved such concerned and compassionate organisations such as the IDF and MDA - and continue to do so.



Roland signs the proclamation document for the underground blood bank

We appreciate your support

Organisation Rankings

IDF	91.3
MDA	90.7
ZAKA	88.7
Youth Movements	77.2

As we approach Chanukah, we ask you to kindly renew or to take out membership to become a NSW Friend of MDA. You will receive an ambulance card which entitles you to special attention by MDA on your visit to Israel. As well as individual membership, this year we have introduced a family membership option enabling your dependent children to become members, at no additional cost.

On behalf of our Board and Staff as well as our MDA colleagues in Israel, our respective families would like to wish you and all your dear families, a very Happy Chanukah and pleasant and safe vacation period. We look forward to welcoming you to our very exciting functions and events planned for 2017.

Shalom Al Yisrael Ve'Am Yisrael Chai, *May the people of Israel live on and in peace.*

Roland Nagel, President

An historic & memorable conference

The annual international Magen David Adom conference (IMDAC) was held in Israel during November and was an historic and memorable one not only for the New South Wales Friends Society but also for the MDA family worldwide.

As mentioned in the President's column, a record 21 medicycles and an ambulance were dedicated on behalf of the NSW community amongst 56 vehicles in total from all Societies, the largest number ever dedicated as part of one ceremony. We thank Ruth and Bob Magid (2), Nora Goodridge (2), Millie Phillips, Steven Stux in honour of his wife Ruth, John Roth & Jillian Segal together with Stanley & Charmaine Roth, Bruce Block, our Christian Friends and an anonymous donor for kindly donating a total of 10 medicycles. The other 11 units were dedicated by the community in general and one will be located in each of MDA's 11 regions across the length and breadth of Israel.

Another piece of history was created at the conference with a ground breaking ceremony for Magen David Adom's new Blood Bank and Logistics Centre in Ramle, strategically located halfway between

Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Israel's main population centres. Since the current Blood Bank, located in Tel Aviv was constructed in 1987, Israel's population has more than doubled. Also, Israel needs to protect its blood supplies from enemy rockets (that are now capable of reaching central Tel Aviv from both Lebanon and Gaza) as well as the real risks of earthquakes and natural disasters. Therefore the blood processing and storage activities for the new Blood Bank will be built underground using state-of-the-art technology and equipment.

A highlight of the conference was its official start in the Holy City of Jerusalem and with a visit to the Kotel Tunnels and time for personal reflection at the Wall. We were welcomed by Shmuel Rabinovitch, the distinguished Rabbi of the Kotel, who praised the work of MDA. We were shown how a family simcha (such as a Bar Mitzvah) can be arranged at the Kotel and observed the completion of the writing of a Mezuzah in honour of the occasion.

Another feature of the conference was a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) demonstration. We witnessed how Magen David Adom responds to an MCI (such as a major road accident or act of terror) with its standard and intensive care ambulances, medicycles, mobile command and control unit and even a helicopter in action. However, even more impressive is the unconditional dedication and commitment demonstrated by the paramedics and volunteers of MDA. They are pure inspiration.



Special guests Gloria Goldstein, Joseph Brender, Michelle Spiro and Gerda Brender join Uri Shacham and Margaret and Roland Nagel at the Gala Dinner

Special guest speakers at the conference included former Israeli Ambassador to the US and Deputy Minister Michael Oren MK and Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, Israeli attorney, human rights activist and founder of the Shurat HaDin.

The Conference closed with a Gala Dinner at which Mayor of Jerusalem, Nir Barkat was the guest speaker. Delegates had the opportunity to invite special guests and we were honoured to have Joseph and Gerda Brender, Gloria Goldstein and Michelle Spiro join us.

Those who attended the conference left it inspired and motivated to continue with their precious mission to save lives in Israel. Any NSW Magen David Adom supporters wishing to join the conference next year are more than welcome to do so.



Margaret Nagel, Ido Golan Gutin, Roland Nagel, Melissa McCurdie, Tony and Carolyn Ziegler with ambulance dedicated in memory of Joy Groden, Harry Pisk and Marcia & Alan Milston



Dramatic helicopter rescue as part of MCI



Mass Casualty Incident (MCI simulation)



Roland Nagel and Melissa McCurdie at dedication of a First Aid Centre by the Netherlands Friends of MDA



A fascinating visit to the Kotel tunnels

Underground blood bank will ensure supply during crises



An artist's impression of the Marcus National Blood Services Centre

The cornerstone-laying ceremony of Magen David Adom's new underground blood bank which will help to secure the country's blood supply in case of attacks or natural disaster was held on November 16, 2016 in Ramle.

The estimated cost of the new facility is \$US110 million. It will be able to store 400,000 pints of blood—one-third greater capacity than Magen David Adom's current facility in Ramat Gan—and will be able to withstand a missile attack or an earthquake.

"With all blood transfusions stored in an underground space, the facility will ensure that they remain unharmed even when the building is under a massive barrage of missiles. Securing the national blood center to prevent blood shortage and meet our transfusion requirements is a national goal of the utmost importance," said Magen David Adom Director General Eli Bin.

Although the project is of high priority for the Israeli government - it made the land available but is unable to fund it, Magen David Adom is responsible for raising the total amount required for the construction of the facility.

So far \$74 million has been raised by US contributors who also largely funded the current blood bank. The new facility will be named the Marcus National Blood Services Centre in recognition of a \$25 million gift by American Home Depot co-founder Bernie Marcus and his wife Billi. The blood bank will be reinforced against rocket attacks and its location closer to Israel's main highways, ensures the blood will reach its destination more quickly.

MDA's Director of Blood Services, Prof Eilat Shinar, stressed that a slowdown in processing is particularly dangerous, especially during a war, when the amount of blood needed is critical to both wounded civilians and soldiers.

A Magen David Adom-produced video explains why the new facility is necessary. Check out "Building a New Blood Center for Israel" from AFMDA on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/66862583>.



Prof Shinar shakes hands with a donor at the ground breaking ceremony



Cross checking details on blood vials

Fires rage across Israel

As this newsletter is being finalised fires are raging across Israel and many homes have been lost. Magen David Adom is doing everything it can to make sure lives aren't lost too.

The fires have devastated parts of Israel near Haifa, Jerusalem, and Modi'in. But Magen David Adom, Israel's national emergency medical and disaster-relief service, has been saving lives - treating victims for smoke inhalation, evacuating people from their homes, providing aid to the displaced, and, in one case, rescuing a 3-month old baby from a burning home.

Magen David Adom was on high alert, activating additional ambulances and medics to respond to the crisis. This all comes at a considerable cost.

200 vehicles a day on the frontline assisting civilians and firefighters



- Costs \$1,150 per day to deploy a volunteer-staffed ambulance.
- Mobile intensive care units (MICU), cost \$1,800 a day.
- Bringing 60 ambulances out of emergency storage and up to the north of Israel adds up to a total of \$85,000 per day.

Our MDA heroes are there for the duration of the emergency as one MDA volunteer says, "we don't know when the fires will be out but MDA is here until everyone is safe again."

A Taste of Israel

Magen David Adom friends filled the cinema at Westfield on Sunday November 20 to see a mouth-watering documentary about food from all over Israel. "In Search of Israeli Cuisine" portrayed a diverse, multi-cultural society which has adapted a huge variety of foods and food styles to its own lifestyle and taste.

The evening commenced with a raffle with a wide range of generous prizes.

Josh Bolot, MDA Board member, was the MC for the evening. In his welcome, Josh highlighted the wonderful support of the NSW community as reflected in the recent donation by NSW Friends of MDA of 21 Medicycles and an ambulance to MDA Israel, whilst lamenting that these are still so vitally necessary. He revealed that "MDA also has a recipe. We blend 13,000 volunteers from all parts of society, mix in 730,000 phone calls and 300,000 blood units, add 900 vehicles, sprinkle in the support and love of international friends like us in New South Wales, and dispatch from 124 stations. This serves lifesaving support in Israel all day, every day regardless of race or religion and contributes to international humanitarian situations."

We thank everyone for their attendance and support making the evening a great success.



Viola Bolot and Annabel Karmel



Martin & Andy Heymann and
Cara-Lee Schapiro



Andy Stone, Julie, Michelle and
Diane Drexler



Nicole Rudaizky, Natalie Cohen and
Gail Eliovson



Onno & Jacqui Bakker



Riva & Jeremy Hayman



Mel Jacobs and Minnie Wesek



Sheila Benjamin and Ruth Kellerman



Sara Senn and Alex Iancovici



Ruth Freedman and Ari Naar

THANK YOU

We extend our thanks for donation of snacks to:

Michael Gordon, Wild One for the water
Clive Sher for the Ari bars

Manfred Frankel of Good Food Catering, and David Wolf for the nougat
Krinskys & Yumis for the humous snack packs

Raffle prizes were generously donated by:

Marc Rom, Raymond Weil, a watch
Len Milner, Mayfair, 2 suitcases
Larry Porter, Ice Watch men's and ladies' watches
Lisa Goldberg, Monday Morning Cooking Club,
2 cookbooks and an apron

Hair by Rita Raikhel Bondi Junction, wash treatment and blow dry,
Tony & Carolyn Ziegler, Dreambaby voucher
Josh Bolot, Signed Neil Perry Cookbook
Sterling Laundry, Wash & fold 2 doonas and 4 pillows

Linda Bermeister – a true Eshet Hayil

The NSW Friends of Magen David Adom mourns with great sadness the loss of Linda Bermeister, wife of the esteemed former President, Allan Bermeister z"l. A loyal Magen David Adom supporter in her own right, there was nothing she wouldn't do for MDA. She was a dedicated volunteer collecting Tzedakah boxes until recently. Deepest sympathies are extended to her devoted children Kevin & Bev, Yitz & Liat, Rebecca, Ilana & Jeff and their 16 beautiful grandchildren and to her sister May.

Linda Windisch was born in Cape Town on June 8, 1939. She had a carefree childhood, loved the outdoors and was a free spirit.

As a young teen, at a local party she met her childhood sweet-heart and soul mate, Allan. That was the beginning of a relationship that lasted for over sixty years.

Family life was a long, adventurous and productive chapter, spanning two continents, hundreds of wonderful friendships, a myriad of creative projects and business ventures to which Linda always brought unwavering faith, remarkable enthusiasm and a commitment to giving it all a fair shot. All the while juggling challenging family circumstances and the stress of migration.

Linda's commitment to Allan and their shared life consisted of years of travel, movies with old friends, Shabbat dinners and lunches with the ever expanding families which tragically ended in the last two years of Allan's illness. Linda held the family together through the toughest of times.

Leah bat Dov Ber v'Chanah was a true Eshet Chayil - a woman of grace, valour, strength and patience; a believer that human relationships were more important than the acquisition of things or success.

Linda made an impression on all her met her. She will be greatly missed.



Linda Bermeister with Allan at the 2011 Annual General Meeting

Keith Bethlehem takes up role as Hon. Solicitor

NSW Friends of Magen David Adom takes pleasure in announcing the appointment of Keith Bethlehem as its Honorary Solicitor.

Keith takes over from Stephen Freeman who has been in the role since 2011. In his thanks to Stephen, Roland Nagel acknowledged



Stephen's years of service to Magen David Adom and his wise counsel and assistance.

Keith Bethlehem is a partner at Colin Biggers & Paisley where he is part of the insurance team. His focus is advice to Insurers in the areas of financial institutions and, directors' and officers' liability, insurance. Keith worked internationally gaining extensive experience in the Lloyd's market, with a particular specialisation in defending claims against financial institutions and investment professionals. Keith is often instructed to advise on and monitor claims against directors by their liability insurers, and manages claims under Cyber Risks insurance policies on behalf of insurers.

Prior to migrating from South Africa to Australia, Keith had a history of serving in Jewish communal organisations, including as a youth movement leader and as a member of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists. Jewish communal service is very much part of his family background. His mother, Marlene, is the president of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and is a previous President of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

Keith is married to Kerry Saloner, a social worker, who in addition to her professional role, is actively involved in North Shore Chabad. Keith has two children, Dan and Aiden.

Allan's painting hangs in ambulance station

Past President, the late Allan Bermeister z"l was a dedicated painter who was devoted to his Thursday art classes and often entered his works into exhibitions.

Late last year, Kevin Bermeister, on behalf of the family, presented one of Allan's bright, cheery paintings to Magen David Adom in Israel.



The ambulance dedicated in 2014

The painting now hangs proudly in the Tzohar station, in the southern settlements of the Eshkol Region near Gaza, where the Mobile Intensive Care Unit donated in his memory, is stationed.



Allan's painting and plaque at the Tzohar Station

Linking a simcha with saving a life

When you choose to give your family and friends a beautiful, personalized certificate or card – everyone benefits – the donor, will know that their donation has helped Magen David Adom in Israel to save lives daily; the recipient will receive a beautiful certificate or card and the knowledge that their simcha is linked to someone in Israel whose life has been saved as a result. Memorial donations are also acknowledged in the same way.

These donations are used to help fund urgently needed medical equipment.

Since the Rosh Hashanah issue of the Lifesaver the following people have been honoured in this special way.

BNEI MITZVAH

Adam Robinson
Ari Shlom
Coby Smith
Gia Smith



A very happy Libby Fischl proudly wears her MDA bib received for her birth

FOR BIRTHDAYS

Births

Jadon Peter Southwell

40th

Monique Gara

50th

Alan Treisman

60th

Louise Green
Allan Pollack
Sarah Zukerman

70th

Irwin Barhan
Gaby Berger
Marian Dimand
Raphael Mendels
David Naar
Ros Roberts
Anthony Rom
Roy Shotland
Michael Swerdlin
Victor Topper
Anonymous

75th

Judy Devai

80th

Audrey Cohen
Prof David Glasser
Ruth Isman
Lynette Lapidus
Gerald Raichman



Gaby Berger recently celebrated his 70th birthday. Family and friends gave donations to MDA. Gaby is shown with his wife Jen during a trip to Israel.

90th

Ezra Berley
Sheila Goldberg

Other Birthdays

Errol Goldschmidt
Judy Babic-Wolf
Richard Wolf

OTHER CERTIFICATES

Engagement

Nathan Vidor to Yahav

Wedding

Elianna & Nachman

Anniversary

David & Yvonne Robinson

30th

Jeanette & Jack Abrams

40th

Leon & Jasmine Cohen

50th

Clarice & Ricky Lockitch

60th

Joyce & Basil Geller
Fay & Efraim Romek

Hospitality

David & Sandy Basin
Marta Karlikoff
David & Mandy Manne
Bernie & Cheryl Tuch

In Honour and Appreciation

Cassie Bobrow
Ross Goldberg
Tammy Handel
Jo Jacobson
Nicky Michel
Shelley Sher

Rosh Hashana wishes

Vivienne & Charles Beck
Philip & Michelle Berman
Jennifer & Alan Herman
Denise & Howie
Len & Cecile Radomsky
Mark & Zozanne



Cassie Bobrow and Gabriella Balkin both in year 8 at Moriah asked for support from family and friends through I Stand With Israel posts on Instagram. Cassie's money was raised for MDA. Kol ha'kavod.

Requesting a Magen David Adom gift certificate or card couldn't be easier:

- Go online to www.magendavidadom.org.au
- Phone the MDA office 9358 2521
- Email nsw@magendavidadom.org.au
- Post cheque to PO Box 293, Edgecliff NSW 2027

Please advise payment details – credit card (American Express, Visa or Mastercard), who is to be honoured (and the occasion) or remembered, a short message and where the certificate or card is to be sent.



MDA saves lives regardless of creed, gender or origin

However, Magen David Adom can only fulfil its staggering responsibilities with the generosity of its Friends around the world.

By remembering Magen David Adom in your Will you could make a profound difference to the lives of many.

The important issue is that the donation has to be planned for. It needs to be drafted into one's Will by a solicitor or recorded in a codicil and cannot be left to the last minute.

For example, a bequest could be a specific amount, a property, a percentage or residue of an estate.

By advising the Friends of Magen David Adom that you have left a Bequest in your Will, we have the opportunity to thank you for your generosity and foresight and to better acquaint ourselves with your wishes. It also helps us to plan for future projects.

For any enquiries in strict confidentiality please contact Tamara Lowbeer, 9358 2521.

Free Tzedakah Boxes and Collections

Magen David Adom has two different boxes – one in the shape of an ambulance and the other, cylindrical, has colourful action photos depicting typical MDA scenes. Both are FREE. Children love them and adults can help to fill them showing by example the true meaning of Tzedakah, the giving of charity.

The boxes can also be placed in businesses and shops. Anyone wishing to acquire a box for their business is asked to contact the office.

Please call Tammy Zlattner on 9358 2521 now for a new box or to arrange for the collection and replacement of a full box.



Developing new friendships

On September 26, The Friends of Magen David Adom NSW were invited to Parliament House to address a meeting of the Christian Worldview Forum hosted by parliamentarian, the Hon David Clarke MLC. Participants came from far and wide around the State to hear about Magen David Adom and its lifesaving work.

The Hon David Clarke MLC welcomed everyone to Parliament saying, “We are amongst friends today”. Expressing his abiding support of Israel he said that Australia had recently experienced acts of terrorism and violence which Israel has had to face daily for years and urged everyone there to support Israel and the Jewish people – the only democracy in the Middle East.

Roland Nagel was then invited to address the gathering describing how “Magen David Adom, as an organisation, enables us to become better people by showing love to and care for our neighbours, the opportunity to perform acts of kindness and charitable deeds, giving blessings to Israel, and carrying out the holy mission of saving lives.” Roland gave a brief history of Magen David Adom describing its role both within Israel and internationally through its humanitarian relief work.

Louise Southwell, the Co-ordinator of the Christian Friends of MDA in Australia, thanked for the opportunity to reach out to the Christian Community channelling their efforts to work together to save lives through Magen David Adom. Louise was excited to announce that the Christian Friends of NSW will, for the first time, be dedicating a Medicycle for the people of Israel which will bear an inscription recognising their Australian contribution.

Jacqui Bakker, representing both Christian Friends of Magen David Adom and Christians for Israel, also spoke with excitement about the opportunity to show support and solidarity with the State of Israel. She will be working with Louise spreading awareness of MDA's work and expanding the membership of the Christian Friends for MDA.



Anne Ayalon, Elana Watson and Debbie Efron all from CFMDA stand next to the medicycle donated by the Christian Friends of NSW. Also in the photo are Carolyn Ziegler, Roland Nagel and Melissa McCurdie



Tony Ziegler, Jacqui Bakker, Roland Nagel, The Hon David Clarke MLC, Louise Southwell at Parliament House

Lively discussion about books

Our MDA Book Club set up by Linda Stein over ten years ago, still meets regularly. We choose books on varying topics taking suggestions from our members. We discuss if they are of interest to us and then put them on our reading list. Several books are chosen in advance so that we have time to borrow them from the library. We all read the same book for our discussions.

Our meetings are on a Sunday night every 6 weeks. We gather in members' homes and every one brings a "plate". We each contribute \$10 at each meeting which is donated to Magen David Adom.

Our discussions are generally very lively as we all share our opinions, criticisms, praise, for the book we have just read. Our socialising and discussion continues over supper. Despite differing ideas and opinions we are a great group working harmoniously together.

Please contact me on 0409 363 232 if you are interested in books and in joining us.

Jeanie Kitchener, MDA Book Club Convener



Discussion continues over supper for Eve Ash, Wendy Cohen, Lola Lang, Diane Seeto and Jeanie Kitchener

Eight top reasons why you should support Magen David Adom

- MDA is the second line of defence in Israel and provides all emergency medical services in times of peace and war
- MDA provides 97% of blood services to all of the hospitals and to the populace of Israel as well as to the Israel Defence Force medical service
- MDA has an ongoing program for Emergency Life Saving training for all civilian employees including postal workers, police, fire fighters, cab drivers, tour guides and others. MDA also provides First Aid instruction where young people learn to help themselves and their own communities in times of disaster
- MDA has built and maintains First Aid stations throughout Israel. Auxiliary services are also maintained with ambulances at all of the critical border kibbutzim
- MDA depends on the support of contributions from its own local fundraising and from Friends of Magen David Adom throughout Australia and the rest of the world
- MDA is recognised as "the largest volunteer organisation in Israel"
- MDA is the only national rescue and emergency services organisation mandated by the Knesset in 1950 under The MDA Law
- MDA has provided humanitarian medical relief and support to various countries affected by natural disasters



MDA NSW Our People

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