

Heartbeat

Official Journal of

Magen David Adom

(Victoria, Queensland &
Western Australian Divisions)

www.magendavidadom.org.au

FEBRUARY 2017

**MAGEN
DAVID
ADOM**



International Magen David Adom Conference 2016

The International Magen David Adom Conference for 2016 (IMDAC) November 13 to 16. Meeting old friends, and saying hello to new ones is always a highlight of the conference.

The conference started with a visit to the Kotel, and a tour of the tunnels. It is always inspiring to spend time at the Kotel.

Shmuel Rabinovitch, the Rabbi of the Wall, spoke about the amazing work of MDA, and thanked them for the dedicated hard work they do for the People of Israel. He discussed how a family can organise their Bar Mitzvah at the Kotel, and we also had the opportunity to watch the completion of the writing of a Mezuzah. How amazing to have this important event at the Kotel.



**ALL DONATIONS
of \$2 or more to
Magen David Adom
are now FULLY
TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

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The opening ceremony was held at the Bloomberg Jerusalem station, where Eli Bin, MDA Director General gave a very informative address regarding the past 12 months activities.

Listening to the emotional stories of the medics and paramedics from the station always tugs at your heart. These are the real heroes of MDA. Seeing how this station operates, dispatches emergency vehicles is something everyone should see.

We departed early to dedicate a new MDA Station in Baqa El-Gharbiyya, a city in the north near Hadera.

The earliest documentation of Baqa was as a village in the 12th century, but today the city of Baqa El- Gharbiyya serves as a central hub for the neighbouring villages and community settlements in the Wadi Ara area. Thank you to our Friends from MDA Netherlands for sponsoring this new MDA Medical Emergency Station.

A visit to the Tulip Vinyard with a tour and tasting showed us the different types of wine produced in this beautiful area of Israel, followed by a Mass Casualty Drill (MCI) as outlined below.

Mass Casualty Drill

- ***A vehicle loses control and rams into a group of pedestrians. Bystanders are running to assist and calling Magen David Adom. An over-voice of the call is heard as the dispatcher answers and begins the process of declaring an MCI, activating the MDA First Responders, ambulances and MICU teams.***
- ***Arrival of the first teams on MDA Medi-Cycles, followed by the first ambulances & MICU.***

[Continued]



Mass Casualty demonstration for IMDAC delegates, showing Lahak helicopter evacuation.

- ***Declaring "Commander 10"- MDA incident commander. Initial triage begins-teams begin working within the chaos. Reporting back and building up a clearer picture of the extent of the incident, using MDA's new dashboard cameras. Coordinating the arrival of additional MDA teams while coordinating with Police, Fire Fighters and Home Front Command.***
- ***Stabilising the scene and updating reports to the MDA Regional Dispatch centre. Creating the medical transportation evacuation, beginning the transporting of the severe casualties to the MICUs and ambulances.***
- ***MDA – Lahak Airborne helicopter evacuation starts.***
- ***Scene cleared within 30 minutes.***

What an experience to see these MDA staff and volunteers do what they know best!

After two very intensive days, the morning started with presentations by all the Friends Societies. Sharing ideas, learning about different ways of fundraising. It is always inspiring to hear what other countries are doing, and how we can cooperate with one another.

Special guest speakers at the conference included, **Nitsana Darshan-Leitner**, Israeli attorney human rights activist and founder of Shurat Hadin and former Israeli Ambassador to the USA, **Michael Oren MK** [pictured above]. Both were engaging and informative.

The highlight of the conference was the ground breaking ceremony for the Marcus National Blood Services to be built in Ramla (see article overleaf).

The conference ended with the Gala dinner, special guest Mayor of Jerusalem, **Nir Barkat** who spoke about the current situation in Jerusalem.

As always we were all inspired by the work of MDA and the different activities of all the Friends Societies. I look forward to IMDAC 2017.

Glynis Lipson, Chairman MDA Victoria.



Israel's Most Precious Resource Underground

WHEN ROCKETS ARE IN THE AIR, WE NEED TO PROTECT

The Marcus National Blood Centre



Our goal is to build the safest underground national blood supply facility in Israel's history – for Israel's future. By joining us for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, you'll make a difference in the lives of millions, becoming the sustaining force – the very lifeblood – of Israel.

Please help us make it a reality. Contact the MDA office to learn how you can join the campaign for Israel's new blood centre.

Bernie and Billi Marcus from American Home Depot have given a very generous donation of \$25 million towards this project.

Today, Israel's blood supply is facing a precarious situation:

- ***The current centre is vulnerable to Hamas' and Hezbollah's increasingly sophisticated rockets, which can now reach virtually any part of Israel.***



- ***The underground bomb shelter in the current facility isn't large enough for employees and equipment to work in a protected environment during times of conflict.***
- ***The centre is vulnerable in the event of a chemical attack and was built prior to today's earthquake protocols.***
- ***Israel's population has nearly doubled since the current blood centre was built in the 1980s, requiring more blood units and straining the capacity of the facility.***
- ***There isn't room to expand, precluding MDA from upgrading the current facility to meet current and future blood needs.***
- ***There's limited access and parking for bloodmobiles and other large vehicles that deliver blood and other critical resources from the field.***
- ***There's inadequate blood storage for larger blood-supply requirements.***

**A secure blood supply.
Pulse of a people, lifeblood of a nation.**

The new blood centre, estimated to cost \$100 million, must be built now to ensure the safety and security of the nation's blood supply.

- ***Key blood processing and storage areas will be reinforced and located underground to protect the blood supply in the event of rocket attacks.***
- ***It will meet the latest standards for protection against earthquake-related damage and chemical warfare.***
- ***The new blood centre will be located in Ramla, in central Israel, for easy highway access to all the nation's hospitals.***
- ***It will be large enough to meet today's blood demands, and well into the future.***

If you are interested in supporting the vital work of this life saving organisation, please don't hesitate to call the Magen David Adom office on 03 9272 5633.

Eli Bin Community Breakfast



On 3rd of August a Community breakfast was held for over 160 people, who came to hear Magen David Adom Director General Eli Bin.

He informed us of the dangers facing Israeli's on a daily basis and the most recent wave of terror taking place across the country at the time. Eli discussed the attacks ranging from riots, shootings, stabbings, car rammings and rock attacks. He explained the importance of ongoing support of Magen David Adom Victoria.



Also invited to speak at the breakfast was **Megan Bernitz** [right] a young Sydney student, who, while in Israel completing the Yochai Poratt overseas volunteer program, found herself caught up in the Saron terrorist attack.



Having just completed her shift, and having coffee with friends at Max Brenner, Megan saw the shooting and quickly escaped with her friends into a nearby loft.

She recounted feelings of being numb, scared, frightened, and anxious, however put her feelings aside, dressed herself back into her MDA uniform and ran back to the chaotic scene to help save lives of the injured. After describing her gruelling experience, she received a standing ovation for her bravery in the attack.



MDA Overseas Volunteer Program



It was an unusually quiet night, but it was soon to be the highlight of my six weeks volunteering with Magen David Adom and an experience that will remain with me for a lifetime.

The alarm sounded at 12am, paging my ambulance to only our second call of the night. My roommate Liza and I were still half asleep as we ran out the door behind our driver, Aiman. As we climbed onto the ambulance, we retied our hair and straightened out our uniform in an attempt to look more alert.

This was to be one of our last shifts before our volunteering period was complete. Throughout those five weeks, we had been called to almost every imaginable scenario. We had attended to patients who had been stabbed, involved in car accidents, fights or fires, patients with fevers, chest pains, stomach pains and almost everything in between. Yet, the one thing that we hadn't seen and wanted more than anything was a birth.

Liza and I began to prepare the ambulance for the call when Aiman turned to us and asked *"What is the one thing that you both still want to do?"*. We took one look at each other and without even thinking, we responded with *"a birth"*. With a smile I'll never forget, he responded *"so let's go deliver a baby"*. We both let out a squeal of excitement. *"Liza, we are going to deliver a baby! A real baby!"*.

After what felt like the longest drive, we had arrived at our patients home shortly after the first responders. Our patient was 26 years old and was 40 weeks pregnant with her second child.

For religious reasons, our patient requested that she was not examined by a male. Liza and I were the only females so we were

MDA Overseas Volunteer Program

to check her vital signs, if her water had broken and if the baby was crowning. Despite all the training we had, we were not taught how to deliver a baby! Aiman guided us through the examination and thankfully, her water had not broken and there was no sign that the baby would come in the next few minutes. After several minutes and in between contractions, we managed to transfer her to the ambulance bed. In the ambulance we continued to monitor her vital signs and check for signs of crowning.

Her contractions began getting closer together and only 10 minutes into the drive, her water broke. My beautiful white shirt was white no longer!

We lifted the bed head and continued to do everything we could to try make her as comfortable as possible. With every contraction, bump on the road or movement, she would cry out in pain.

The drive to the hospital felt even longer than the drive to her house. We arrived at the hospital and we quickly wheeled her out the ambulance and sprinted through the hospital corridors to the lift to the Labour and Delivery ward.

We all took a sigh of relief because in less than a minute we would be handing the expectant mother to hospital staff.

As I turned around to press the button to close the lift, Liza screams 'head'. Seconds later, we were pulling a beautiful baby boy into the world.

As we stepped out of the lift holding this baby, no words could express how we felt. We were so incredibly proud of ourselves and so grateful to have been given the opportunity to bring a new life into the world.

Throughout the last few weeks we saw heart break, pain and loss. On that night, we saw joy, love and the miracle of life.

The photo [top left] of Liza and I was taken moments after we had delivered the baby.

MDA Victoria gratefully appreciates the ongoing support of Gary Peer and Associates.

GARYPEER

www.garypeer.com.au

MDA Family mourns the death of Josephine Orya ז"ל

Josephine Orya was President of MDA Western Australia for over 25 years. Her passion for Israel and MDA knew no boundaries.

A passionate and devoted supporter for many, many years, who dedicated herself for the scared mission of saving lives and alleviated human suffering of the most vulnerable.

Alon Fridman, CFO MDA Israel, together with Glynis Lipson, Chairman MDA Victoria attended the funeral.

MDA Western Australia together with MDA Victoria have purchased a new MDA medicycle. Josephine will be missed by all. May her memory be a blessing.



Israel makes a wish come true for Gaza Girl suffering cancer



This story happened a couple months back, but we are quite certain that amidst all the bashing of Israel, the mainstream Western media ignored it completely.

Little Aya is suffering from advanced leukemia. Back in August of last year, she was given a permit, along with her mother, to travel from Gaza to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem to receive the care she needs.

After three months of tests and treatment, including intensive chemotherapy, little Aya had just one wish – to go to the beach again.

The **"Make a Wish Ambulance"** from Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service happily made that wish come true.

They took Aya and her mother for a day of sun, waves and pizza along the beaches of Tel Aviv. Then it was back to Jerusalem for continued treatment.

All Aya's mother wishes is for her little girl to get better, and Israel is doing all it can to make her wish come true.

This is the real Israel. The Israel that isn't afraid to fight, but also loves and cares for its enemies. The Israel that, given the opportunity, wants nothing more than to live in peace and harmony with its Arab neighbours.



MDA Trivia Night 2017



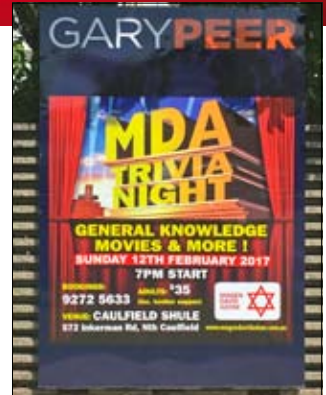
MDA Trivia Night 2017 fundraiser was once again a huge success. Held at Caulfield Shule on Sunday 12th of February, this year the theme was Movies and General Knowledge (with a quirky movie connection).

With over two hundred participants, lots of prizes and many laughs this was a great night. We would like to send out a huge thank you to all who generously donated prizes and assisted in organising this event. The funds raised will go towards much needed medical supplies.



The winning team with Glynis Lipson, Chairman MDA Victoria.

MDA Trivia Night 2017



Magen David Adom Appeal/Telethon 2016



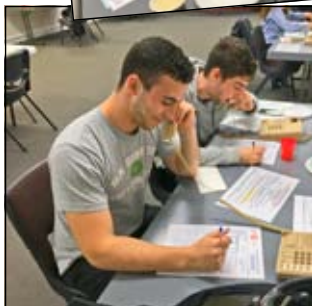
MDA had another successful week in September phoning for our annual telethon appeal.

We had a great turnout of volunteers who were extremely efficient and did a magnificent job to help with raising money. The funds raised will go towards purchasing urgently needed medicycles, which can easily manoeuvre between cars and traffic and reach patients in many cases before the ambulance and start initial treatment.



These first few minutes can be the difference between LIFE and DEATH.

Special thanks to AUJS, Youth movements, all Jewish Day Schools and the community for volunteering your time.



The Shabbat Project

With more than 200 people in attendance at Elwood shule for the Shabbat Project in 2016, the night was destined to be one of unity for the community.

The night began with a wonderful music service led by Rabbi Shmuel Karnowsky, Rabbi Rubinfeld and Ronny Kowadlo. Accompanying the men was Jonathan Zion and his guitar who together with the community brought in

Delicious food from Unger catering and Falafel Omisi along with Glicks Challah made everyone feel at home while enjoying the simcha together.

The entertainment of the night Helen Mirachi as the "Buba" had people bellowing with laughter and relating to the exact same Jewish experiences of growing up eating our own Buba's food.



Unity Day – June 2016



On June 1, 2016 Magen David Adom Victoria brought the Jewish community of Melbourne together to celebrate Yom Achdut – Unity Day.

Around the world over 1 million people came together to celebrate Jewish unity, inspired by the sense of unity that engulfed the Jewish world at the time of the kidnapping of Eyal, Gil-ad and Naftali, communities around the world are encouraged to come together on June 1st.

Magen David Adom Victoria brought Israel to Melbourne with a **Night Market** including 17 community organisations, 50+ stalls of people within the community selling gorgeous products, 8 performances including Israeli dancing, Israeli singing and more!

We were privileged to receive video messages from **Eli Bin**, Director General of Magen David Adom, **Nir Barkat**, Mayor of Jerusalem and **Racheli Fraenkel**, mother of **Naftali Fraenkel** thanking Magen David Adom Victoria & the Jewish Community of Melbourne for their support.

With a fantastic vibe and fun atmosphere, our 1000+ guests enjoyed their Falafel whilst lounging in the Moroccan Lounge or shopping at our shook which sold products from Israel such as halva, baklava, olives and more!



Magen David Adom Victoria was proud to bring this special event to the community and raise funds for Magen David Adom, Israel.

A big thank you to our sponsors for **Scott Winton Insurance Brokers**, **Hodges Caulfield**, **Erdi Group**, **Oxford Logistics Group**, **Cooper & Co**, **Kasbah Moroccan Imports**, **Magnet Me**, **Consult Solicitors**, **Mancave Storage**, **Guests Accounting**, **Where the Grass is Green**, **Gandel Group**, **Spotlight**, **Australian Jewish News**.



Unity Day 2017 – SAVE THE DATE – 4th June

UNITY DAY - 4th JUNE 2017

Boutique Twilight Market

● MARKET STALLS ● STREET FOOD ● ARTS & CRAFTS TO BUY

● MOROCCAN LOUNGE ● ENTERTAINMENT AND MORE...

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2017
3pm – 7pm St Kilda Town Hall
Corner Brighton Rd & Carlisle St.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Israel's Medical Emergency Service

It's a Matter of Life

Bankrupting Terrorism One Lawsuit at a Time



Shurat HaDin is at the forefront of fighting terrorism and safeguarding Jewish rights worldwide.

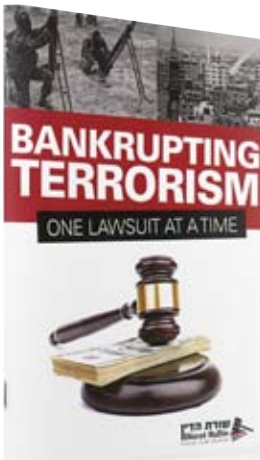
The goal of Shurat HaDin is to cripple the terrorist infrastructure and secure compensation for the terror victims.

They are dedicated to the protection of the State of Israel. From defending against lawfare suits, fighting academic and economic boycotts and challenging those who seek to delegitimize the Jewish State, Sharut HaDin is utilising court systems around the world to go on the legal offensive against Israeli's enemies.

Based in Tel Aviv, and directed by Attorney **Nitsana Darshan-Leitner**, Shurat HaDin works with Western intelligence agencies, law enforcement branches and a network of volunteer lawyers around the world to file legal action on behalf of world Jewry.



Today, Shurat HaDin represents hundreds of terror victims in tens of different legal actions against Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, North Korea, The Palestinian Authority, Iran, Syria, the Lebanese-Canadian Bank, Central Bank of Iran and the Bank of China. It has successfully disturbed the terrorist groups and helped their victims to strike back at those responsible for devastating their lives.



**SAVE THE DATE:
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30**



BANKRUPTING TERRORISM ONE LAWSUIT AT A TIME

MDA invites you to join us to hear **Nitsana Darshan-Leitner** one of Israel's leading lawyers, as she tells her story of **Shurat HaDin – Israel Law Centre** and the profound impact it and its volunteer network of lawyers is having in its **"Battle to Bankrupt Terrorism"** by crippling terrorist infrastructure and securing compensation for terror victims.
(Further details to be announced soon).

MONEY JUDGEMENTS



OVER
\$ 200 Million
to the victims and their families



OVER
\$ 2 Billion
against terror organizations and state sponsors of terrorism



OVER
\$ 600 Million
in frozen terror assets

שורת הדין
Shurat HaDin
Israel Law Center 

Holocaust Survivors Ambulance Service Fund

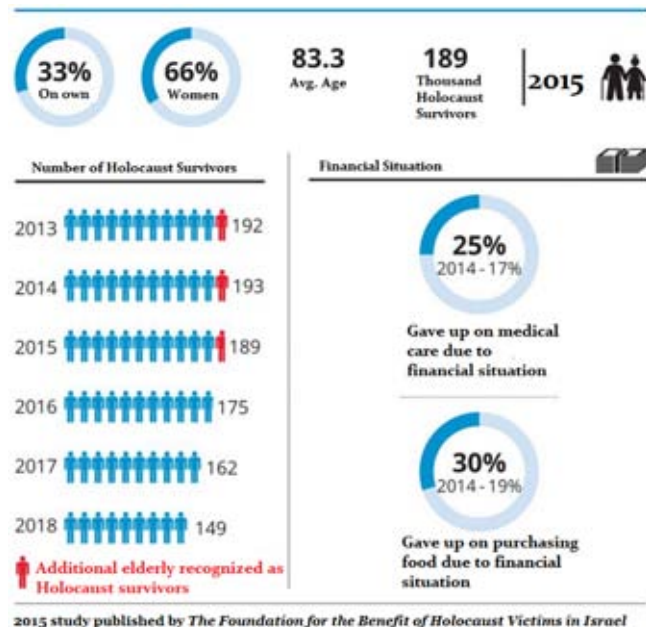
Emergency Medical Services for Holocaust Survivors

Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's National Rescue and Emergency Medical & Blood Services, as of January 2016 is spread across the breadth and width of Israel with 127 stations and outposts in 11 regions from the Golan Heights to Eilat.

Since its inception in 1930, MDA has continually aimed to improve and expand its pre-hospitalization lifesaving care to the people of Israel. The objective of MDA is to provide lifesaving pre-hospital care to each and every patient.

In a national study published in 2015 by *The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel* it was found that 189,000 Holocaust survivors are living in Israel, 24% of them (=approximately 45,000) are living under the poverty line with a welfare stipend of NIS 3,000 (AUD \$1,050) per month. The average age of Holocaust survivor in Israel is 83.3. 66% of the survivors are women and approximately 36% of them are living on their own and without any assistance.

[Continued]



Holocaust Survivors Ambulance Service Fund

Some notable worrying points from surveys conducted in the study are:

- 73% of the Holocaust survivors answered that they suffer from various health issues and complications.
- 21% of the survivors answered that they suffer from bureaucratic procedures.
- 65% of the survivors describe themselves as requiring daily assistance in doing daily tasks such as grocery shopping, errands, medical treatments.
- 25% survivors attested to having given up on medical care due to their financial situation as opposed to 17% in 2014.
- 30% of survivors attested to having given up on purchasing food due to their financial situation as opposed to 19% in 2014.

Holocaust survivors in Israel are unfortunately amongst those who frequently use MDA's ambulance services due to their age and many ailments. Sadly, MDA is legally required to charge a fee for every ambulance journey and as such many survivors in financial need are required to pay such bills because their insurance may not cover the cost.

This may have a negative effect on the survivor who would potentially "think twice" before contacting MDA for a potential life threatening situation or alternatively suffer further financial distress when receiving the bill.

Targets:

- To ease the pain of hundreds of thousands of survivors living in Israel today. Many of them suffer from physical, emotional and financial distress and often need medical aid and MDA's ambulance services.
- The fund addresses their plight and helps MDA assist a generation that gave everything to the continuance of the Jewish people.

Direct Benefits: Holocaust survivors

Over the last few years, MDA has received many calls from Holocaust survivors, ineligible for ambulance refunds from National Insurance, health insurance, the health services and other bodies.

To circumvent the problem, MDA established a fund for the purpose of covering the costs of ambulance services to Holocaust survivors who are eligible based on special regulations.

[Continued]

Holocaust Survivors Ambulance Service Fund

Since 2013 during which the fund was established and until today – MDA has been able to assist in fully funding 732 cases of ambulance services provided to Holocaust survivors in total of NIS 383,002 (AUD \$135,000).



- The last couple of years have seen a substantial increase in requests by Holocaust survivors.
- In 2016 alone 364 cases were paid for by this special fund totaling NIS 200,000 (AUD \$70,000).
- The average cost of an ambulance service which is funded by the Holocaust survivors fund is NIS 535 (AUD \$190).
- Based on the requests approved during 2016 we expect to encounter an annual cost of NIS 200,000 – NIS 250,000 (AUD \$70,000 – \$90,000) in 2017.

If you are interested in donating, please don't hesitate to call the Magen David Adom office on 03 9272 5633.

Yad Vashem – Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project

As you may be aware Yad Vashem has recorded through its Central Database the names of 4.6 million Jewish Holocaust victims as part of the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project. As the generation of survivors is reducing in number it is timely to remind the community of the importance of assisting Yad Vashem in the vital work of recovering the identities of the victims.

On behalf of Yad Vashem, the **Australian Friends of Yad Vashem** are contacting Jewish organisations throughout Australia to ask them to promote the **Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project** by passing on some information about the project to their database with a link which will allow Heartbeat readers to access the relevant forms.

The link here refers to the website where both electronic and hard copy communications can be found:
www.yadvashem.org/remembrance/names-recovery-project

Should you require any further information please contact Tammy Roth on 0412 405 586 or afyv.exec@gmail.com
Joey Borensztajn, President Australian Friends of Yad Vashem.

MITZVAH DAY



MDA together with Kehilat Nitzan organised a blood drive for Mitzvah Day in 2016. The international day takes place in November each year and aims to raise awareness for the importance of undertaking mitzvahs. It was a successful day with many people donating whole blood, plasma and platelets. **1 donation saves 3 lives.**

*Pictured above David Southwick MP
and Hayley Southwick*

To donate please call the Red Cross on 13 14 95

Deductible Gift Recipient Tax Status Achieved!

After many, many years of trying to obtain a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) tax status, we finally achieved this goal.



Thank you to **Moisson Lawyers, Didi Levin and Harriet Warlow-Shill** for their work in making this finally a reality. Thank you to **David Southwick MP** for all your support over many years.

MDA is very grateful to all of our donors, and hope that we continue to support the LIFE-SAVING work in Israel and around the world.

International Conference on Victims Assistance



With the rise in global terror attacks, countries around the world are turning to Magen David Adom (MDA) – Israel's national emergency medical, disaster relief, ambulance and blood services organization – to learn from its method of shortening emergency-response times.

Chaim Rafalowski, MDA's disaster management coordinator, [pictured] recently presented the organization's method of integrating Israeli volunteers into its emergency-response system at the first International Conference on Victims Assistance, held in Paris and sponsored by the United Nations cultural body UNESCO.

The purpose of the conference was for countries to share knowledge and experience, thus setting the ground for international partnership and coordination.

It has been two years since the Charlie Hebdo shooting in Paris, and since then, the terror threat faced by the world has only become more imminent. French authorities have identified a necessity for the improvement of victim-support in such emergencies, and have therefore established the Ministry of State for Victims Assistance.

[Continued]

International Conference on Victims Assistance

MDA's Chaim Rafalowski was invited by the ministry to attend the conference in order to present the organisation's method of integrating the Israeli public into its emergency-response system to ensure shorter response times. In his speech, Rafalowski also mentioned MDA's unique methods for emergency preparedness.

Representatives from different countries who participated in the conference expressed great interest in MDA's reliance on volunteers and civilians to cut response-times. The organisation provides medical equipment to trained volunteers serving on standby basis, who go about their days normally until they are summoned to scenes within their immediate vicinity by a dedicated application. Additionally, anyone with basic medical training can become a first responder, or as MDA calls them: "Life Guardians".

MDA's command and control system detects the location of all dozens of thousands of EMTs, paramedics and Life Guardians and dispatches them, in addition to the ambulances, in order to reduce response times to critical patients.

MDA provides medical equipment to trained volunteers who serve on a standby basis and are summoned to nearby scenes of emergencies when needed. Anyone with basic medical training can become a volunteer MDA "life guardian" emergency responder. MDA's command and control dispatches EMTs, paramedics and life guardians based on their proximity to any particular incident, reducing emergency-response times.

The Israeli organization's presentation at the Jan. 9th in Paris came a day after the deadly Palestinian truck-ramming terror attack in Jerusalem, an attack that mirrored recent truck-rammings carried out by the Islamic State in Nice and Berlin.



**MAGEN DAVID
ADOM
IN VICTORIA
is excited to
announce
ALL DONATIONS
of \$2 or more
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TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

Now registered as a public benevolent institution A.B.N. 87613175821



MDA / Red Cross Tracing Service

TEL AVIV, Israel Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's national emergency service and operator of the national blood services centre, is also Israel's national society within the international movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Under this capacity, MDA operates a division for tracing.

The organization's association with the Red Cross exposes it to a massive database, turning it into one of Israel's most successful tracing services.

The division was established less than a decade ago and since then has handled over 5000 inquiries from individuals who have been separated from their loved ones due to conflict and tragedy. There have been roughly seven spectacular cases in which siblings and half-siblings whom hadn't known about one another for decades, have been reunited. There have been dozens of cases in which family members such as parents and children have been reunited, and even more cases in which cousins were reunited.

This is the story of the Brodman family, who survived the Holocaust and was recently able to trace relatives in multiple locations through MDA. The family plans to reunite in Israel in the coming weeks.

The story began on Israel's national Holocaust Memorial Day. Yaffa Kaplowitz, who lives in Northern Israel, was watching a televised ceremony held at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. Speaking at the ceremony, was Zehava Roth, who began her speech with a briefing of her family history. She was the daughter of Moshe and Channa Brodman of NowySizice, Poland. Her parents and older brother, Benzion, perished during the war.



Zehava Roth (left) and Yaffa Kaplowitz learned they were long-lost cousins.

MDA / Red Cross Tracing Service

Yaffa was the only daughter of Hirsch and Ita Brodman. She was placed in the hands of a non-Jewish family to keep safe during the war, which indeed saved her life. The parents sadly were deported in January 1944 to Auschwitz from the assembly camp of Mechelen in Belgium, where they perished. Once the war ended, one of her maternal uncles came to get her and the two relocated to the U.S. where she grew up. She later moved to Israel. Believing she was the sole survivor of the Brodman family, she was in utter shock when watching Zehava's speech. She thought, *"Could this be? Could Zehava and I be related?"*

Yaffa reached out to Susan Edel from MDA's tracing service who immediately began researching Yaffa's family history and contacted Zehava to learn more about hers. Zehava was a seven year old girl when she was left on her own after escaping the Bochnia Ghetto. She managed to survive the war, having gone on the Kindertransport to England and later came to Israel where she got married and started a family. Zehava, also believed that she was the last survivor of her father's family.

Susan contacted the Belgian Red Cross inquiring about whether they had any information about Hirsch and Ita Brodman. They did. The couple were born in Poland, moved to Berlin and then fled to Belgium in 1939. With the help of the Belgian Red Cross, Yaffa learned the names of her grandparents which she didn't know – Avner and Lea Brodman. Susan thought, *"These women could really be related"*.

Joyce Kahn, a close friend of Yaffa and acquaintance of Zehava called Zehava to ask her if she knew the names of her grandparents. Zehava replied that she did – Avner and Lea. It then dawned on everyone, Zehava's and Yaffa's fathers were brothers, and both were the children of Avner and Lea. The excitement hit the roof.



Hirsch Brodman, Yaffa Kaplowitz's father who perished in the Holocaust.



Joe and Adolf Brodman, long-lost cousins whose descendants are now in touch with their Israeli family.

MDA / Red Cross Tracing Service (continued)

Susan immediately put the two women in contact, they spoke on the phone for hours unable to believe the good fortune that had come their way – to find a first cousin, alive, and living in the same country. They later reunited in a meeting joined by their children.

Just a few weeks ago, Susan received about 50 pages of documents about Yaffa's parents from the Kazerne Dossin Archive in Belgium. The documents included official papers including a copy of Yaffa's parents' marriage certificate, a photo of her parents and even a letter in her father's handwriting. In his letter, her father mentioned names and addresses of two cousins living in the U.S., Adolph and Benjamin Joseph Brodman. They were also mentioned in a letter from the U.S. State Department regarding visa applications they had filled in for Hirsch, Ita and their daughter, (Jeanne) Yaffa.

After receiving the documents, Susan found Adolph on an online database. She discovered that he used to live in Chicago but later moved to San Diego, where he passed away. Adolph and his wife, Bertha, had three children and Benjamin Joseph Brodman had five children. Soon, Susan found an obituary about the wife of Benjamin's youngest son, Seymour. The obituary mentioned the synagogue in which the funeral service took place. Susan then contacted the synagogue manager who forwarded Susan's email to Seymour's daughter.

Contact was then also made with the descendants of Adolph and Benjamin Joseph Brodman, cousins of Hirsch and his brother Moshe, mother of Zehava Roth. The relatives in the U.S. could not believe that they had family in Israel. They were so excited. They shared photographs of their grandfathers as well as a family tree going back to their great-great grandfather, Avner Brodman (Yaffa and Zehava's grandfather was Avner, and Adolph's Hebrew name was Avner, as seen on his tombstone).

Susan Edel:

"People are in utter shock when we find their family, they cannot believe that after all these years there are family members that are still alive. Even when they are not, when we are able to provide people with documentation, photos, or other information about the fate of their loved ones, it lets them reach closure. They know that they can stop looking. There's a sense of peace of mind that now they at least know what happened to them."

MDA / Red Cross Tracing Service (continued)

Yaffa Kaplowitz:

"From the age of 4 I believed I was the only survivor of my father's family. Now, thanks to Magen David Adom, not only have I connected with my wonderful and warm first cousin and her family, but also with the descendants of my father's family in the USA who are just as excited as we are to have found family. I feel that the circle has been closed and that my parents would have been extremely happy to know that we have all reconnected. After all the years of believing I no longer had close family on my father's side, it is an amazing feeling and great comfort to me."

And so, from thinking that they were the sole survivors of their paternal family, Yaffa and Zehava now have an extended family in Israel and the USA.

They still are not sure exactly where the connection was. Were Adolph and Benjamin Joseph Brodman first cousins or second cousins of the brothers Hirsch and Moshe Brodman?

Hopefully time will tell. In the meantime a reunion is planned for early 2017 when Lee Samuels, the grandson of Adolph Brodman is planning a trip to Israel especially to meet his new found family.

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240 seconds**

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MDA in Ecuador



Recently representatives from MDA arrived in Ecuador in order to share knowledge with the local Ecuadorian Red Cross in responding and treating Mass Casualty Incidents.

Members of the Ministry of Health and the Ecuadorian Red Cross arranged a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) in order to learn and improve the local EMT system. The drill which was presented was similar to that of a multi-story building collapsing with many trapped and injured.

Amongst those who came to watch the drill were: Senior Advisor to the Minister of Health Mr. Santiago Tarapues, the Medical Manager of the Ministry of Health for the region of Quito, Ecuador Dr. Manuel Minaya, Manager of the Disaster Planning unit of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Health, The Israeli Ambassador to Quito, Ecuador Advin Yabo, MDA Executive Committee Chairman Dr. Noam Yifrach, representatives from the police and military and many others.



MDA Flies Blood & Blood Components to Peru in order to Save Israeli Backpacker Zohar Katz's Life



As a result of a request to MDA Director General Eli Bin – MDA worked together with the Foreign Ministry and "Migdal" Health Insurance, to fly blood and blood components to Peru.

This was done to save the Israeli backpacker **Zohar Katz's** life who was hospitalized in critical condition in the Intensive Care Unit of the Balima hospital and required tens of units of blood and blood components.



MDA Director General Eli Bin: *"For the past few days, we have been working around the clock to arrange the appropriate permissions for a complicated mission. We are happy to have received the green light from Peru to continue with our lifesaving efforts."*

In cooperation with the Foreign Office, the hospital in Lima and the Israeli Embassy in Peru, MDA received the necessary permissions to fly plasma and blood components to Peru.

MDA Paramedic **Yonat Daskal** [pictured right] flew with 100 units of plasma and blood components to assist the hospital in Peru where she joined **Dr. Asher Moser** Deputy Director of MDA Blood Services.



MDA Education Program



2016 – During late August MDA was asked by AUJS to speak to a select group of students in Sydney, prior to a 6 week trip they were soon to embark on.

Sharon Unger (MDA Vic educator), facilitated a great morning of information and education including two short videos.

The first video was about the **Wish Ambulance initiative** called **The Girl from Gaza**; the second was on the **Mobile Command and Control Vehicle**.

These were two very emotive visuals that created great interest and conversation. The students were then given a brief history and current update with regard to MDA's activities, strategy, and our vision for the Australian Jewish community and our projects in Israel and Australia. The day finished with a fun interactive computer generated question and answer game. The morning was well received and very educational.

As well as speaking to **AUJS** we have recently also given talks to a **UJEB Bat mitzvah class, Grade 3 at Mt Scopus, GBH** and an afternoon tea at **TBI** attended by around 100 people from the Russian community. Glynis also regularly speaks on **J-air**, the Jewish local radio station, with regard to MDA and our current activities.



[Continued]

MDA Education Program

During his visit from Israel to Australia recently **Alon Fridman**, MDA's CFO and the Director General's Assistant for International Relations, (pictured left), went to **Beth Rivkah Ladies**



College to speak to the students in years 9–12.

We are making ongoing connections throughout the community concentrating on the leaders of tomorrow.

2017 – This year we are planning many educational experiences in a variety of different schools, to help promote awareness about MDA's vital work in Israel and how the students can be involved.

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Julia Caplan, President Young MDA



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Shimon & Sarah Scharf	Brit
Maya Kolieb	Birth

BAR & BAT MITZVAHS

Ilana Goldman	Bat Mitzvah
Eden Smolarski	Bat Mitzvah
Rachel Fox	Bat Mitzvah
Noa Pitt	Bat Mitzvah
Brooke Kurc	Bat Mitzvah
Raphael Shwalb	Bar Mitzvah



Mary Gilbert receives her certificate from Glynis Lipson, Chairman MDA Victoria.



Ilana Goldman.

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For further information please contact the MDA office.



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- ☐ Please send me appropriate wording to include in my Will.
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