




# THE LIFESAVER

## Chanukah - Another Year of Light and Saving Lives

As we approach the end of calendar year 2017, the NSW Jewish Community and all our wonderful friends and supporters can look back with pride at another outstanding year of partnering with Magen David Adom in Israel in its precious quest to save lives.

Chanukah is a festival of light and it is illuminating that our collective contributions from so far away directly support MDA in Israel in such a tangible way.

In 2017, we responded to MDA Israel's specific request for 4 wheel drive Ambulances to provide lifesaving services in areas of rough terrain or under extreme weather conditions. This year, our efforts have resulted in the **donation of a total of six Ambulances for Israel**, four of which have the 4 wheel drive configuration, as well as a standard Ambulance and an Intensive Care Unit.

But wait there's more - we have also raised funds for **eight Medicycles** which included a revolutionary intercity 650cc version for highway use such as during heavy traffic and congestion between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. We describe it as a "medicycle on steroids" and it even comes equipped with a defibrillator and portable oxygen tank. Many thanks to our wonderful supporter Mr Bruce Block for donating this unit as well as another medicycle this year.

Speaking of innovation - MDA Israel continues to cover the whole spectrum of First Responder vehicles to meet every contingency where emergency medical attention is needed and knowing that every split second counts. As another example, **MDA is introducing a fleet of electric quadricycles** (to be called Mini MERVs - Medical Emergency Response Vehicles) - which look like a combination of a very small electric car and a medicycle with four wheels. It is designed for two people, can navigate very narrow streets and parks and has a fold-up stretcher. I am so grateful to our dear friends Stanley & Charmaine Roth together with John Roth and Jillian Segal for their visionary donation of one of these innovative vehicles.

Continuing on the same theme, Sydney-based tech entrepreneur and dear friend, Neill Miller, suggested

to MDA Israel the benefits of having e-bikes as part of its first responder fleet. Such units could be suitably equipped and allocated to MDA's younger

volunteers for quick response to call outs helping to stabilise the patient - making every second count - until the ambulance arrives. MDA Israel's executives were most enthusiastic about Neill's suggestion and, following a feasibility study, will be rolling out these units to its young volunteers and guardians.

So, in total for 2017, our brothers and sisters in Israel will benefit from 15 vehicles donated by the NSW community with five of these vehicles made possible thanks to bequests. We are so proud to support MDA Israel's real heroes, its paramedics and volunteers who dedicate their lives to save the lives of others, and our tangible support is both transparent and so highly valued.

As we approach Chanukah, we ask you to kindly renew or to take out membership to become an Australian Friend of Magen David Adom. You will receive a membership card which entitles you to special attention by MDA on your visit to Israel including a free Ambulance ride in the unfortunate event of such a need. In fact, in this newsletter, we provide the stories of three of our Sydney-based friends who needed such assistance while in Israel this year.

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 2018.

**Roland Nagel, President**



New electric quadricycles join MDA's fleet to help reduce response times



## MDA Movie Night - Rebel in the Rye

Magen David Adom friends filled the cinema at Bondi Junction on Wednesday November 22 to see the new film "Rebel in the Rye", about the life of celebrated but reclusive author, JD Salinger, who gained worldwide fame with the publication of his novel, "The Catcher in the Rye".

Roland Nagel, President welcomed and thanked patrons for their support and attendance. A short MDA movie was shown featuring a typical lifesaving situation where paramedics were called on for assistance to a child who was already turning blue. Within minutes the situation was turned from critical to positive with the child making a complete recovery.

The evening was made possible thanks to Lindy Tamir of the Jewish Film Festival who made the film available for MDA, sponsors and donors of generous raffle prizes.

Raffle prizes were generously donated by:

Len Milner, Mayfair bags, Tony & Carolyn Ziegler, Dreambaby, Hedley & Zara Gordon, Book Review St Ives, Garry Browne, Stuart Alexander, Hairvolution

We extend our thanks to sponsors for snacks:

Michael Gordon, Wild One, Clive Sher, Lacorium Health, Dovid Krinsky, Krinskys



Barbara & Raymond Whitten



Kathy & Neill Miller



Haviva Elais, Frederica Barlaz and Gerry Leighton



Paul & Diane Drexler, raffle winners with Roland Nagel



Roland Nagel and Ruth Eskin, raffle prize winner



Jonathan & Sandy Smuskowitz



Jacqui Bakker and Tony Ziegler



Hymie & Maureen Flekser

## MDA Proudly Launches Medical Innovation Forum

Australian Friends of Magen David Adom recently launched our exciting new MDA Medical Innovation Forum with an intimate boardroom breakfast, proudly sponsored by OurCrowd.

This function was the first of a series of events which will showcase the latest medical companies and innovations from Israel.

Our appreciation is extended to our keynote presenter, Dr Yossi Bahagon visiting from Israel, for sharing his unique insights in to The Digital Health Landscape of the Future. Thanks also to all those who joined us for this early morning event.

It was a pleasure to partner with Dan Bennett, Brad Joffe, Ali Rosenberg, Andy Kaye and the entire team at OurCrowd, who share our passion for medical innovation and its ability to help save more lives.

For more information on future MDA Medical Innovation Forums or to find out more about Magen David Adom's lifesaving work in Israel please call the office on 9358 2521 or email [doron@magendavidadom.org.au](mailto:doron@magendavidadom.org.au).



Andy Kaye, Dan Bennett, Doron Lazarus



David Schlessinger, Josh Bolot, Tony Ziegler



## American Red Cross calls on MDA Israel for help

When southeast Texas was devastated by floods caused by Hurricane Harvey in late September and tens of thousands of people lost their homes, the American Red Cross put out a call for assistance and expertise and Magen David Adom Israel responded.

This was the first time the American Red Cross had called on MDA Israel for assistance. MDA shared information on best practice for multi casualty events and natural disasters during the historic 10 day mission. The team deployed consisted of three paramedics including an expert in community health and disease control. They were joined by some local volunteers who were trained in MDA's Overseas Volunteer program in Israel.

As Israel's member to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, MDA regularly partners with countries around the world to exchange knowledge and best practices in emergency medicine.



Magen David Adom senior EMT Itzik Mor, left and community health specialist Tomer Kaplan with American Red Cross CEO Gail McGovern coordinate relief efforts in hurricane ravaged Houston.

## Moriah College Hillel House Fundraiser for MDA

On Wednesday 8th November years 7 - 11 students from Hillel House, Moriah College hosted a charity quadrathlon event, strengthening their wonderful relationship with Magen David Adom.



Some of the Hillel House students who took part in the Challenge

Each section of the challenge was named for an equivalent area of Israel, as if they were moving through those areas.

As part of the charity initiative, Hillel students collectively ran 88km (through the Golan Heights) on a treadmill, rowed 110km (across the Sea of Galilee) on a rowing machine, cycled 156km (from Haifa to Jerusalem) on a stationary bike and hiked 30km (across the Jerusalem Trail) on a cross-trainer, all in just 7 hours.

They raised almost \$4000 on the day, matching their incredible effort from last year's event. The funds will be used to purchase vital lifesaving vehicles and equipment in Israel.

**Thank you to Moriah College, Hillel House for organising the challenge and especially to all of the students who participated, helping to save even more lives.**

## Announcing Israel's New Breast Milk Bank

The first national Breast Milk Bank is set to open in Israel in April 2018.

Magen David Adom in collaboration with the Association for Mother's Milk Donations will set up the service. The activity will allow breastfeeding women to donate excess breast milk to babies whose mothers are not on hand for some reason – for premature babies, mothers and babies requiring operations, extra hospitalisation, etc.. The Breast Milk Bank will be located in the MDA Jerusalem station and will be funded mostly by MDA and partially by the Ministry of Health.

Healthy breastfeeding mothers with excess breast milk who fulfil the Ministry of Health's demands, live a healthy lifestyle can provide a donation without hindering their ability to nurse their own babies. According to medical statistics, only 30% of women nurse without using any supplements, and could act as potential donors to the Breast Milk Bank. The average donation volume ranges from 100-200cc per day, during the 3-9 months after the birth.

It is estimated that the demand for breast milk will be hundreds of litres a month. The units stored in the Breast Milk Bank will be thoroughly tested for infectious diseases, nutritional analysis, processing, rapid freezing, etc.



Image: Google Images



## John Rector, a self made man 1929 - 2016

John Rector was born in Berlin in 1929; and at the tender age of 9 he and his parents Kurt and Ruth escaped the Nazi regime; arriving in Australia in 1938; thereby starting their new life. And John made it a good life in Sydney; working hard, he supported his parents in a new land, and excelled academically; achieving degrees in Engineering, Science and Economics.

The lion's share of John's working life was as a management consultant; eventually setting up his own successful practice in the mid 1970's until he retired in the mid 90's. The projects of which he was most proud were the modernising of three Royal Australian Navy dockyards.

A family man; John married Linda in 1956, and had 3 children: Susan, David and Ruth. John was devoted to his parents and was a loving husband, father and 'pa' to his 5 grandchildren. But that is only part of his story.

A self-made man in many ways, John was active in so many causes and pastimes. He was a long time passionate Zionist, he volunteered for many years with the Jewish National Fund and served on many committees of which Magen David Adom was just one; he served as Vice President for three years and was the editor of the MDA newsletter. John in 'retirement' gave his time and expertise at COA, and he joined the Association of Independent Retirees; serving as their President for 3 years. John's philanthropy extended to the University of Sydney and the creation of a scholarship in his name in Jewish Studies.

John loved his fishing, his bridge, his Sudoku and his politics. A lively conversationalist, he was a quiet achiever, but made his presence felt in any given setting with his agile mind and plain speaking. He loved to travel, having visited every continent; reconnecting with his former homeland after unification, and memorably choosing Israel as a destination several times.

John is remembered not only as a generous, thoughtful individual but a spirited one, who most humbly and without pretension moved through the world, and made substantial donations to a range of causes that he was most passionate about.

John would have been enormously pleased that his bequest to MDA has been used so wonderfully and thoughtfully to purchase two First Responder medicycles that will serve the Yarden region in the far north of Israel.

*Written by David Rector and Ruth Ryder*



John Rector with his family: Ruth Ryder, David Rector (Front) Linda Rector, Sue Maxwell



The inscription displayed on both medicycles



Steffa & John Rosenbaum with granddaughter, Miriam

## Steffa Rosenbaum 1924 - 2016

Steffa Rosenbaum's enduring love of Israel and her generosity of spirit are both evident in her bequest to Magen David Adom.

Steffa Rosenbaum (nee Scheffer) was a Zionist and a member of the youth movement Betar in pre-war Poland where she was born in 1924.

As with many of her generation of Holocaust survivors, she bore the wounds and horrors of the loss of her family, great physical and mental hardships and of miraculous survival. The scars never left her entirely, but in their place grew a determination to survive which she imbued in her children.

A speaker of German, Polish and Yiddish, Steffa met her husband, John Rosenbaum at the end of the war. Together with John and their young daughter, Ruth, they migrated from Germany to Sydney, Australia in 1952. Their second daughter, Theadora was born in 1957.

Steffa's passions and interests included her family and friends, classical music, her patience for gardening and answering endless questions about how things grow. Her generosity of spirit was very evident whenever visitors came to her home.

The love of Israel, inculcated in Steffa's teen years and the importance of her Jewish identity, shaped by the Second World War, never left her.

In 2015, aged 91, she made Aliya and enjoyed 10 wonderful months in Israel surrounded by her family.

*Written by her daughter Theadora Beniacar*

