



THE **LIFESAVER**

Your Membership helps to shine a Light on Saving Lives

As Chanukah approaches, we again remember the miracles of the Maccabees, the victory of light over dark, and how this drives our everyday lifesaving mission at MDA, which is enabled by your generous donations.

Our recent sold out Movie Night was a very special and poignant evening just a few days after the tragic passing of JBOD past President Jeremy Spinak, at age 36, leaving behind his wife and one year old twins. He will be sorely missed by our community and all who knew him. Your Board has dedicated the next MDA medicycle in Israel in his name.



Membership to MDA is a partnership in saving lives

With this edition we enclose your annual membership renewal. Your membership is a partnership in MDA's lifesaving work in Israel. It is a link in the chain of solidarity with Magen David Adom and the vital role it performs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Your membership of MDA will help ensure that Magen

David Adom is able to fulfil its mission of saving lives, remaining at all times, Israel's second line of defence.

Some of the benefits include discounts on entry to many of our events, as well as free MDA ambulance travel in the unlikely event you may need it on your visits to Israel. Please fill in your membership renewal and post, complete online, email admin@magendavidadom.org.au or call our office 02 9358 2521.

Thank you for attending our events throughout the year and the donations you have made. You have enabled us to send urgently needed funds to MDA in Israel to purchase medicycles, ambulances, and other critical lifesaving medical supplies. We have also funded Israel's first Human Milk Bank, which will provide babies, especially premature babies, mother's breast milk when their own mother is unable to supply it. Remember, all donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.

Our Sponsors are very special benefactors who donate generously to our cause. We deeply appreciate their sponsorship of MDA and our events. Please see their brands in this newsletter. We urge you to support our Sponsors.

Young MDA is our future. Many have participated in volunteer programs at MDA Israel. We need you all to stay involved with MDA and remember the great cause and work of MDA.

Bequests are a special way of providing for the needs of Israel into the future. Please remember the Australian Friends of Magen David Adom Ltd in your Will. If you need any assistance or would like to discuss it, please call Tamara at our office 02 9358 2521 or complete the confidential Wills card included in this mailing.

Your Board has worked very hard this year, as always, and given me great support; our co-Vice-Presidents Melissa McCurdie and Nick Aronson, our Hon. Treasurer Peter Sheldon, Hon. Secretary Cara-lee Schapiro, and Dr Billie Whiteson Glass, Allyson Small, Josh Bolot, Nolan Goldstein, Jonathon Green and Mark Josman. We are all involved in businesses, jobs, schools, other community activities, and of course our families. I appreciate and thank each of our Board for dedicating a significant amount of time out of their hectic lives to help Magen David Adom raise much needed funds to help save lives in Israel.

Our office team have been very effective and efficient, and wonderful ambassadors for MDA. Special thanks to our CEO Doron Lazarus, Tamara Lowbeer and Rivkah Lazarus.

In 2019 we will redouble our efforts to provide the material wherewithal for Magen David Adom to continue saving lives in Israel. Please continue to help us on our journey with the great Mitzvah of Tzedakah by donating much needed funds to Magen David Adom. When in Israel, please visit our facilities, consider an observer shift in our ambulances, and see where your money is going to and how you are actually saving lives every day.

Chag Chanukah Sameach. May Chanukah also bring us hope, happiness, health and peace for us and all Israel.

Tony Ziegler, President

Israel Trip 2018

A recent trip to Israel, as participants of IMDAC (International MDA Conference), provided a first-hand look at some of the key projects made possible with your donations.

Mothers Milk Bank

This year, donations from our Annual Campaign have been used to set up Israel's first Mothers Milk Bank, a project of Australian Friends of Magen David Adom. Donated human breast milk will provide the sustenance needed for these vulnerable premature babies fighting for life.

Every year, over 1800 babies in Israel are born prematurely and many will be admitted to the NICU. The most at-risk babies will receive the precious resource, mothers breast milk - a virtual lifeline.

The new Mothers Milk Bank will be situated at the main MDA Jerusalem station and is expected to open early 2019. Very soon, neonatal units in hospitals across Israel will be able to order donated human milk, a partnership between Australian Friends of Magen David Adom, MDA Israel and the Israel Health Authority.



Youth volunteers help to make emergency training look authentic

First 7 minutes – Mass Casualty Training Exercise

With the heartbreak of Pittsburgh still in our minds, conference participants had an opportunity to undertake a training exercise on how to respond to a MCI (Mass Casualty Incident). The training focused on what we, as every day citizens, can do to assist others if something like Pittsburgh were to occur in our community.

The training covered safety, triage, bleeding control and other practical steps to help save lives. We were assisted by a group of youth volunteers, all aged 15. They are part of an incredible 12,000 youth volunteers between 15 and 18 who spend hours each week on MDA ambulances helping to save lives. (the shirts are used to demonstrate mock injuries)

A Visit to MDA Rahat Station

The Israel trip also included a visit to the MDA Station in the Bedouin city of Rahat. The paramedics, medics and volunteers are almost all Bedouins. MDA is empowering Bedouin women with careers in MDA and beyond and instilling a sense of purpose and structure for Bedouin youth.

I was accompanied by Jonathan Herrman, representing his family, who are key supporters of our Bedouin training program. This Project is a wonderful example of coexistence and inspiring social change reflecting the story of the real Israel! The Bedouin courtesy, hospitality and warmth was simply beautiful.

Jonathan added, “MDA Rahat are the unsung heroes - even in Israel, Bedouins are badly stereotyped (I was warned about going to Rahat by Tel Aviv business people). MDA's work not only gives young people a potential career path & a social purpose, but quietly goes about building a democratic Israel with all people working together to improve & save Israeli lives”.



Jonathan Herrman, far right, with some of the team at the Rahat Station

Doron Lazarus, CEO



Nagel Medicycle Dedicated

Roland Nagel, past President MDA NSW visited Israel in August for the dedication of the First Responder medicycle given by the Australian Friends of Magen David Adom (MDA NSW) in honour of his years of devoted service to MDA. He was accompanied by his wife, Margaret.

Right: Inscription on medicycle



'The Mossad, Imperfect Spies' - MDA Movie Night 2018

Over 230 supporters of Australian Friends Magen David Adom once again filled the cinema at Westfield on Wednesday 21 November for the Annual MDA Movie Night.

Attendees viewed 'The Mossad, Imperfect Spies' which provided a rare insight into Israel's foreign intelligence agency, which was almost completely sealed off to the media. For the first time, dozens of its former operatives agreed to be interviewed. These rare interviews bring to light personal and political dilemmas and challenges and formed an account of the top-secret operations that have shaped Israel's past and may yet shape its future.

Melissa McCurdie, Vice President, started the evening with some heartfelt words about Jeremy Spinak, former President of Jewish Board

of Deputies, who sadly passed away just days before, aged 36.

Tony Ziegler, President provided an overview of MDA's recent activities including the lifesaving services provided during the barrage of terror rockets which were fired upon Israeli citizens over the weeks prior. He also announced that, in recognition of Jeremy's commitment to the Sydney Jewish and wider community, funds raised on the night will be used to purchase an emergency first responder medicycle, to be named in Jeremy's honour.

There was a raffle on the night with a wide range of generous prizes and we extend our thanks to our sponsors who provided the gifts and refreshments on the night.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

1st - Jennine Newman - Leather handbag Valued \$400 donated by Len Milner-Sak

2nd - Vivien Olian - Fully equipped First Aid Kit donated by MDA

3rd - Russell Lazarus - Bondi Pizza Dining Voucher \$100 donated by Glen Lees - Bondi Pizza

4th - Diane Vesely - Bondi Pizza Dining Voucher \$100 donated by Glen Lees - Bondi Pizza

5th - Taryn Boyarsky - Coffee Table Books (2) donated by Hedley & Zara Gordon - Book Review

6th - Ron Sekel - Dreambaby voucher \$100 donated by Tony & Carolyn Ziegler - Dreambaby

7th - Alan Greenstein - Hamsa Bracelet donated by Anon



First prize winner of raffle, Jennine Newman

Snacks were provided by Mighty Bellies.

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



Billie & Sophie Whiteson Glass and Jonathan Glass



Michelle & Daniel Tracton



Gallit Taub, Sheila Lazarus and Megan Bernitz



Wendy & Darron Lonstein



Hannah Balkin



Evelyn Tobin and Clara Donna Ezekiel



Ben Fischl and Michelle Fischl

Israel under missile attack

In early November more than 560 rockets were fired at Israel's southern communities.

Many Israelis were under attack and many emergency calls were made to the MDA 101 emergency lines. Magen David Adom Director-General, Eli Bin issued instructions to raise the level of alert to the highest level in the Shaar Hanegev, Ashkelon and Sderot regions.

The stations were manned by hundreds of staff members. MDA teams consisting of workers, volunteers, dispatch center medics, first responders, the medicycle unit and the helicopter unit were available to the residents in these areas to provide lifesaving treatment, sometimes under fire. MDA activated 78 ambulances to respond to calls.

Magen David Adom teams treated and transferred to hospitals 55 injured, including; one 48 year old who was pronounced dead, a 60 year old woman who was unconscious with multiple injuries. 23 people were treated for glass shrapnel, blast injuries, smoke inhalation and from injuries incurred while running to protected areas as well as 27 people suffering from stress symptoms. Many were evacuated to hospitals..

Throughout the escalation MDA blood services supplied hospitals with 120 blood units and blood components.



MDA teams don helmets and protective gear on their way to emergencies

Loose change can also save lives

Tzedakah is one of the tenets of the Jewish religion, it is something we are taught to do from an early age, to give to those less fortunate or for an honourable cause. Money collected from Tzedakah boxes is used to purchase emergency medical equipment.

The red, cylindrical Magen David Adom tzedakah box has colourful action pictures depicting typical MDA scenes and it is FREE. Everyone can help to fill them.

Please call the MDA office on 9358 2521 for a new box or to arrange for the collection and replacement of a full one.

Tzedakah boxes and tap map machines are also available for businesses for that extra change or easy tapping. Business owners wishing to have one in their shop or business are asked to contact the MDA office.

We are looking for a few volunteers to help collect boxes. Anyone with an hour or two to spare, from time to time and, would like to help us out, should please phone the MDA office on 9358 2521.



First Aid Training in the Community

Many people would know Magen David Adom for the lifesaving services we provide in Israel. Each day MDA Israel saves lives with their fleet of emergency ambulances and medicycles.

However, closer to home, we too face situations where family, friends and colleagues experience an accident or serious medical emergency. We ask ourselves, would I know what to do in that situation? Would I know how to help and perhaps even save a life?

Magen David Adom understands just how important it is to give our local community the right knowledge and training when responding to any medical situation, no matter how minor or serious. "We are committed to ensuring that we not only provide funding for vital emergency services in Israel but that we contribute to the welfare of our local community", says Doron Lararus CEO.

A number of courses have already been conducted in conjunction with B'nai B'rith, with great success. Vivienne Radomsky, Project Manager B'nai B'rith NSW has organised several training sessions with teenagers ranging in ages from 10-15. She said, "it was fantastic, the children were really engaged and loved it. The trainer was on top of things, he kept them busy and occupied the whole time."

B'nai Brith/MDA has also recently held their first training course for grandparents on *Caring for your Grandchildren*.

For more information and bookings please contact Rivkah Lazarus on (02) 9358 2521 or email events@magendavidadom.org.au.



Students learn how to correctly administer CPR

Certificates & Donations in lieu of gifts

A beautiful way to link a Simcha with Magen David Adom's lifesaving work is to consider asking your family and friends to make a donation, which will help save lives every day, instead of giving a gift. The person you are honouring will receive an attractive gift certificate containing your personal message.

The proceeds will go towards emergency vehicles and lifesaving equipment.

Everyone benefits. Memorial donations can also be acknowledged in the same way.

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



B'NOT MITZVAH

Eve Bejet
Marley Whitcombe

FOR BIRTHDAYS

40th

Jared Balkin
Leah Balkin

60th

Ian Geller
Bernard Lieberfreund
Debra Marks
Nick Mourmouris
Jonny Stein
Carolyn Ziegler

70th

Evelynne Cherny
Brenda Cohen
Peter Levy
Gail Romain
Malcolm Sender
Deidre Wainrit

80th

Bert Akres
Riva Tworetzky

85th

Freda Freiberg

90th

Fred Sarif
Queenie Weiner

Other Birthdays

Linda Enoch
Mervyn Felsher
Anne Gameraov
Rona Hersov
Gerald Johnson
Stephen Scholem
Eric Wegman



After Evelynne Cherny, second from right, toured the Bloomberg Station earlier this year she was so impressed that she requested donations to MDA for her 70th birthday. She is with Garry & Maedina Hyman and Ido Golan Gutin. Kol hakavod.



MDA Book Club continues to meet regularly. Contact co-ordinator Jeanie Kitchener on 0409 363 232 if you are interested in joining. Seen in the photo taken at their last meeting: *Front row L-R:* Gina Stern, Diane Seeto, Judy Doobov *Back row L-R:* Jeanie Kitchener, Renee Pinshaw, Margaret Weiss

OTHER CERTIFICATES

Engagement

Dani Hosiofsky & Ben Filler

Wedding Vows

Michelle & Warren Radnan

Anniversaries

60th

Dorothy & Norm Green
Harold & Thelma Sher

Rosh Hashanah Greetings

Isman Family
Geoff & Debbie Levy
Schratz Family

Thanks

Charles & Vivienne Beck
MDA Book Club
Phil & Gloria Silver

In Memory

Gunter Gaspar

Thank you Carolyn

Just recently, Carolyn Ziegler, the wife of MDA President, Tony Ziegler, requested that guests donate to Magen David Adom for her 60th birthday.. This simple gesture raised almost \$5000, which will go directly to assisting us with the purchase of emergency vehicles and other lifesaving equipment.

If you wish to link your simcha with MDA, as Carolyn did, the MDA office will provide you with everything you need to make it simple and easy for you.

They will set up your own customised webpage with your personal message as well as a donation link to send directly to your guests.

For more information please contact Rivkah Lazarus on (02) 9358 2521 or events@magendavidadom.org.au



Bob Falk 1929 – 2018

Robert (Bob) Falk was born in Freiberg, Germany near the small town of Emmendingen where the family lived. After the Nazis came into power Bob's German father was imprisoned in Dachau but his Swiss mother was able, by bribery, to secure his release. This was a clear warning to Bob's parents that they had to leave Germany, and the family arrived in Australia in 1938. Although his parents were obliged to "sell" their home & business for a pittance in a "Jew sale", Bob never regarded himself or family as Holocaust survivors.

Although unable to speak a word of English on arrival Bob soon mastered the language, attending Bellevue Hill Primary School and then qualifying for the prestigious Sydney Boys High School. He won a scholarship to Sydney University and graduated with a BSc. Subsequently he spent a year in Switzerland with his aunt & uncle, doing scientific research.

On his return to Australia, he joined his father in the family business, taking it over after his father's death in 1967. Falk & Co manufactured high quality leather goods - briefcases and travel bags - but when imported products became competitive they successfully transitioned to importing from Hong Kong and later Taiwan, necessitating regular business trips there.

A family man, Bob married Louise in 1964 & they were blessed with 2 children, Anne & Sam. He was a devoted son, especially to his widowed mother for 30 years, a loving husband and father and a doting "Opi" to his 3 grandchildren.

An active member of B'nai B'rith for many decades, he served several times on the executive and participated in the social functions and games nights where he played many a challenging game of scrabble.

A keen traveler, he and Louise enjoyed regular overseas holidays; Bob spent nearly as much time researching on the internet and planning them! They visited Israel quite a few times, where he had many relatives. Also in his later years he and Louise discovered the pleasures of cruising as a relaxing vacation.

Bob was always very discriminating in choosing the charities to support and would have been pleased that his bequest will help establish the Mothers' Milk Bank.



Bob Falk with wife, Louise

Louise, Sam & Anne Falk

Bequestors help Secure a Future for MDA

With minimal funding from the Israeli Government and with mounting financial strains placed on MDA to continue to provide the best and fastest care in times of peace and unrest, your generosity will provide MDA with the means to save lives long after you have gone.

The Australian Friends of Magen David Adom Ltd (MDA NSW) is extremely grateful to Bob Falk, Mark Mordecai, Maurice Kiss and Valerie Paul who have all had the foresight and will to provide meaningful support to Magen David Adom in Israel for future generations.

The names of Bob Falk, Maurice Kiss, in the name of Maurice and Janice Kiss and Valerie Paul from Cootamundra, will be recorded in perpetuity at the Mothers Milk Bank in Jerusalem which is will open up soon and will save the lives of premature babies.

Anyone wishing to advise that they have left a bequest to Magen David Adom in their Will or wish to find out how they can leave a gift in their Will is asked to contact Tamara Lowbeer on 9358 2521 or 0413 084 994 in full confidentiality.



Mark Mordecai 1930-2017



Maurice Kiss with daughters Rowena Marshall and Arianne Burnie

A Remarkable Life – John Davis 1906-2008

John George Davis was born in Sydney on August 7, 1906. His early life was spent in Mosman where he was educated at Mosman Public School.

His father was a wholesale merchant and at 14 John joined the business to earn 10/- (\$1) a week from which he had to pay fares to work and had to obey his father's order to make a monthly donation of 2/- (20c) to help those in need, which he told friends "was my first introduction to charity".

He quit working for his father after three years, but his life was upset when his mother passed away that year. When his father remarried, John left home, surviving by selling vacuum cleaners door-to-door.

It was at this time in his early life that he decided to start his own business going from shop to shop, buying as many small items as he could and reselling them at 'wholesale prices'.

Come 1939 and with it World War II, John received his call-up papers during 1941. Soon after, he met and married Queenie, whose given name was Viva Slutzkin.

In 1942 when the US Army took over the Grace Buildings where he had his small but flourishing business, John purchased a duplex at Bondi. It was the start of his property 'empire'.

Soon after, he purchased land in Blacktown on which he built 12 shops, one of which was to be the delicatessen owned by Frank Lowy and John Saunders, the founders of the Westfield Shopping Centres. Over the years John Davis would tell how he advised Lowy and Saunders about property before they started Westfield Holdings.

John then purchased land in Caringbah and built 27 shops. In 1946 he acquired land at Potts point for a nine-storey building, part of which was to provide a home for him and Queenie for many decades.

With no children of their own, John and Queenie sponsored a young Survivor of the Nazi Holocaust, Leon Wise.

At 83 years of age he decided to retire from the wholesale business but continued his property investments.

John and his wife Viva were long-time members of the Great Synagogue. He was an office bearer at the Lodge Mark Owen at Double Bay and a much loved-member of the Double Bay Bowling Club.

After 62 years of marriage, Queenie died following more than two years of illness. Soon after, John went on holiday to Cairns, finding it a lovely town and ideal for property investments, including a winter home for himself on the Esplanade, where he peacefully passed away on January 14, 2008.

By Peter Wayne, Lawyer



John & Queenie Davis

A fully equipped mobile intensive care ambulance, MICU was purchased thanks to John Davis' generosity and forethought and is based at the National Medical Dispatch Centre in Tel Aviv.

MDA Medicycle in our Schools

Australian Friends of Magen David Adom has recently created their very own first responder medicycle, an exact replica of the ones used in Israel.

The medicycle has been touring local schools and community events, helping to showcase the vital work of MDA in Israel. Recently the medicycle was at the Moriah College and Bellevue Hill Public School Fairs. The students were absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to sit on the bike and pretend to be an MDA paramedic or dedicated volunteer.

To arrange a medicycle visit please contact Rivkah Lazarus on (02) 9358 2521 or events@magendavidadom.org.au



With thanks to our Corporate Sponsors 2018/2019

The generosity of our Corporate Sponsors allows us to offset the majority of the costs of our fundraising events. This means we distribute most, if not all, of the funds raised, directly to MDA Israel.



Do you want to promote your brand to our loyal supporter base while helping MDA to save lives in Israel ?
Then please contact Doron Lazarus on (02) 9358 2521 for more information on becoming a Corporate Sponsor.

MDA NSW – Our People

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