

## **Hadassah Foundation Announces New Leadership**

### *Five New Women Named to Board*

**NEW YORK, April 19, 2016** — The Hadassah Foundation, which invests in social change to empower girls and women, is excited to announce five new board members, hailing from California, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Maryland.

The Hadassah Foundation seeks to augment the work of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, by investing in social change to support women and girls in Israel and the American Jewish community. The Foundation is a philanthropic pioneer in the fields of improving economic security for low-income Israeli women and developing leadership and self-esteem programs for adolescent Jewish girls and young women in the United States. Since 2000, The Hadassah Foundation has awarded approximately \$7.1 million in grants to more than 80 nonprofit organizations.

In 2016, to date, it has awarded \$365,000 to 21 Israeli organizations which work to support Israeli women from all walks of life. Last year, the Foundation made grants totaling \$450,000, including \$300,000 to Israeli groups and \$150,000 to five organizations in the United States as part of its new initiative to strengthen leadership development opportunities for young Jewish women.

The Foundation's new board members (their biographies are below) are: Margaret (Meg) Offit Gold, of Rockville, MD; Jennifer Goldsmith of Brookline, MA; Linda Saker of Brookline, MA; Phyllis Silverstein of Marietta, GA; and Anna Solomon of Santa Monica, CA.

Rabbi Suzanne Offit, the Chair of the Foundation, said: "These outstanding women will be exciting additions to our Board."

**Margaret (Meg) Offit Gold, of Rockville, MD** holds a senior position in the Office of Administration at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC.) She began her career with the Federal government as a Presidential Management Intern at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) nearly 25 years ago. Before joining the NRC, she held a number of staff and management positions at USDA and the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Meg is an active member of her synagogue, B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville, Maryland, a Board member of her local neighborhood association, and also serves in numerous volunteer positions in the community, including involvement with a local ice hockey club for athletes with developmental disabilities. She holds a B.A. from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts and a M.A. in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

**Jennifer Goldsmith, of Brookline, MA**, is the Director of Administration for the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a role she has held since 2014. Goldsmith is responsible for overseeing Brigham and Women's Hospital-related activities centering on research, education, finance and planning and works a liaison between BWH, Partners In Health and Harvard Medical School. Most recently Ms. Goldsmith was the Chief Administrative Officer for Seed Global Health, a public private partnership with the Peace Corps, supporting healthcare workforce capacity building in sub-Saharan Africa. She has also served as assistant dean for finance and director of budgets and financial planning at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University and consulted on planning, development and global health efforts at Harvard School of Public Health, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Healthcare Without Walls (formerly Women of Means) and the Steppingstone Foundation. Ms. Goldsmith is a

member of Temple Israel Boston and a lifetime member of Hadassah. She serves as an elected Town Meeting Member and Commissioner on the Commission for Women in Brookline, MA, and serves on the board of the Brookline Education Foundation. Goldsmith earned her BA at the University of Michigan, MS from the Harvard School of Public Health and her MEd at Boston College.

**Linda Saker, of Brookline, MA**, is a former teacher, school administrator, and social worker who, until two years ago, had a private psychotherapy practice working mainly with women and girls. Her volunteer experience includes serving as a Board member of JCHE (Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly), which has 1500 apartments for low income elders in the greater Boston area. Linda has recently been trained as a mediator and mediates in Small Claims Court in Boston; she working to introduce mediation services into JCHE to aid the staff and elder population with problem solving. Linda has also been on the Board of Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters, Temple Beth Avodah, and has been a member of the Boston Jewish Community Women's Fund. She received her BA from the State University of NY at Buffalo, a Masters from NYU, and a Masters in Social Work from the Simmons College School of Social Work.

**Phyllis Silverstein, of Marietta, GA**, is a Philanthropic Specialist for Wells Fargo Philanthropic Services. Phyllis helps individuals and multi-generational families achieve their charitable objectives through the creation and management of private foundations, charitable trusts and other charitable planning strategies. She also advises nonprofit organizations in the areas of annual development, planned giving/endowment, governance, management and strategic planning. Phyllis has over 30 years of professional fundraising and development experience. Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Phyllis spent eight years as the Vice President of Planned Giving & Endowment for the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta where she developed a comprehensive endowment program involving donors, professional advisors and community organizations. She has served as President and Board member of the Georgia Planned Giving Council as well as Treasurer for East Cobb Middle School PTSA. Phyllis graduated cum laude, with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Florida Atlantic University, obtained a Certificate in Financial Planning from the University of Georgia, and is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional.

**Anna Solomon, of Santa Monica, CA**, has been a member of Hadassah for close to 30 years, and has served the organization in a number of positions. She currently is a partner at The Agency, a highly regarded real estate firm in Los Angeles, and ranked in the top 1% of real estate agents nationwide for her performance. Anna has also been active in the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles. A former high school teacher, Anna received her BA from the University of California at Berkeley and an MA in Teaching from the University of San Francisco.

## **About Hadassah Foundation**

*The Hadassah Foundation, founded in 1998 by Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is an investor in social change to empower girls and women in Israel and the American Jewish community. For more information, visit [www.hadassahfoundation.org](http://www.hadassahfoundation.org).*

*Founded in 1912, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is the largest women's Zionist Jewish membership organization in the United States. 330,000 members strong, Hadassah is entering its second century, growing our commitment to innovative and life-changing medical care and research, women's empowerment, education, advocacy, philanthropy and building Jewish identity – in Israel, America and around the world. For more information, visit [www.hadassah.org](http://www.hadassah.org).*