

Hadassah International's Shining CORPS

It isn't every organization that has the ability in one afternoon in Israel to touch the hearts of dozens of members within the foreign diplomatic community. Hadassah International, our global arm, has this opportunity through its Corps Diplomatique, comprised of ambassadors to Israel and their spouses. The Corps was founded in 1994 by Aytül Gökce (the wife of the then Turkish ambassador to Israel, H.E.

Onur Gökce), who realized that Turkey and other countries around the world could benefit from an association with the Hadassah Medical Organization. Bringing the work of Hadassah to the attention of the diplomatic community, Mrs. Gökce also helped to establish relationships between HMO and top hospitals in Ankara and Istanbul.

The Corps regularly visits HMO and speaks with its physicians. Recently, the

Corps toured the neonatal unit in the Mother and Child Center at Ein Kerem. Stacie Podos, Hadassah International Liaison to the Corps in our New York headquarters, accompanied the women. As Stacie explains, "We show the members of the Corps the scope of what HMO does, both in saving lives and in research, as well as HMO's humanitarian efforts around the world." In establishing personal relationships with Corps members, Stacie notes, we begin a connection to Hadassah International that will outlive their stay in Israel.

Aytül Gökce is a perfect case in point. When some years later her husband's work took them to Finland, she formed another Hadassah International unit there to enhance awareness about HMO in Scandinavia.

As Hadassah International Founder Bernice Tannenbaum explains, "The unique relationship between members of the diplomatic corps and their wives often continues as they move from Israel to assignments in other countries around the world. They remain ambassadors of good will for Israel and for Hadassah." ☺

For more information, please contact Stacie Podos at spodos@hadassah.org.



Members of the Corps Diplomatique in one of the emergency rooms at the new Center for Emergency Medicine, Hadassah University Medical Center at Ein Kerem. Standing on the far left is Hagar Dagmi, Israel Liaison to the Corps; sixth from left is Sheila Kurtzer, Corps President. In bottom row on right: Shoshana Matan, HIMRA Liaison to HMO; second from right, Stacie Podos, U.S. Liaison to the Corps Diplomatique.

GERE'S TURN AGAIN

Hadassah International presented its "Citizen of the World" award to Richard Gere, social activist, humanitarian, philanthropist and, of course, renowned film star, at its Annual Conference in Nice, France.

"I am privileged to be associated with an organization like Hadassah that brings compassion into the world," Gere said in accepting this honor. Through his private foundation, as well as its public arm, Healing the Divide, Gere works toward finding innovative solutions to world problems of injustice and intolerance. Gere was also honored for his support of the Peres Center for Peace whose "Medicine in the Service of Peace" program sponsors heart surgery for Palestinian children. His personal connection to Hadassah University Medical Center made the presentation at the Conference gala all the more meaningful for the audience of over 500 people.

Hadassah International is the global arm of Hadassah, spanning five continents, with a network of men and women of all faiths and nationalities dedicated to the principle that advancement and cooperation in medicine and science transcends politics, religion, and national boundaries. ☺



Richard Gere accepts Hadassah International's "Citizen of the World" award from Marlene Post (center), Hadassah International Coordinator, and Dr. Alain Salimpour (left), Hadassah Nice President.

