

Hadassah News

President's Message by Karen Bloustine

Yom Hashoah Program of April 24

BRAVO! to the team who put together this year's JFEC and Henny Simon Remembrance Community Yom HaShoah program. It was moving, impressive, meaningful, educational, and beautifully presented.

Many thanks to the panelists, clergy and Candle Lighters who made the program so special. But for today - a special shout-out to our German guests: Gerhard Hoffmann, the former Principal of the Alzey Germany Elisabeth Langgasser Gymnasium High School; Dawn Colton-Mund - a former teacher at the school who connected Judi Hopfer Deglin's family with Alzey Holocaust history; and the three students, Nina Gunther, Cara Czerny and Cederik Heiss and their teacher Mario Wagner. They shared their insights with us on Holocaust and Nazi era education in Germany and were all terrific. These connections will be lasting and ongoing.

The program is available for viewing on the Jewish Federation's YouTube page as is the film made by the high school students depicting the life story of Marriane Strauss, Judi's aunt from Alzey who perished in Treblinka along with her mother Ida Strauss. Stay tuned for more stories and information arising out of this wonderful program.



Mario Wagner - Teacher at Alzey Elisabeth Langgasser Gymnasium



Nina Gunther, student at Alzey High School



Cara Czerny, student at Alzey High School



Cederik Heiss, student at Alzey High School



Gerhard Hoffmann - Former Principal of Alzey High School



Dawn Colton-Mund - former teacher in Alzey High School

On the front lines of war -- Hadassah saves a Ukrainian child's life



Members of the Hadassah Medical Center humanitarian delegation with Alex and his mother. (credit: HADASSAH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER)

By Sheila Horvitz

The Hadassah Medical Center delegation to the Ukraine-Poland border saved a child refugee's life, according to the hospital.

The child, two-year-old Alex, and his mother went to the Hadassah emergency medical clinic in Przemyśl, Poland. They had just escaped from Kharkiv and Alex needed three abdominal surgeries for intestinal blockage.

Under the threat of Russian artillery fire, the team had to stop in the middle of surgery at one point when the city was attacked. Dr. Mohamad Hadhud, a pediatrician from Hadassah Ein Kerem and a member of the Hadassah delegation, said.

In a previous operation, a Ukrainian surgeon had created a stoma, an opening through which the feces goes from the intestine into a stoma bag, which is a temporary solution.

However, by the time Alex and his mother arrived at the clinic, the bag had become dislodged, leaving his intestines painfully exposed.

After sanitizing the operation area, the medical staff put Alex's intestines back into place and replaced the bag in preparation for further surgery.

"When we finished taking care of Alex, the boy became more relaxed, and at last he smiled and laughed," Hadhud said. "There's no doubt that a serious infection was prevented that would have put his life very quickly at risk. Once the stomach is open and no sterility is maintained, as happened here, the situation may deteriorate to a place of no return."

"This situation, in which a child so small comes along and they have had to stop his surgery right in the middle - only illustrates what entire families are going through, families who, in a moment's time, are torn apart from their lives," Hadhud added. "I am glad that we, a team of pediatricians and nursing staff from Hadassah, were there just at the right time to help, and that Alex and his mother said goodbye to us with smiles and hugs."