

Inside Yad Sarah

Spring 2005

As a young Jerusalem high school teacher, nearly 30 years ago, Uri Lupolianski needed to borrow a vaporizer from a neighbor for a sick child.

Discovering that such appliances

were hard to find, he bought a few to lend to others, and people started dropping off items they no longer needed. His small apartment was soon overflowing with a variety of the kind of

things people need for only a short time: crutches, walkers, vaporizers, even a couple of wheelchairs.

And from that humble beginning, a wonderful organization soon grew. In 1976, using the funds from the sale of his father's (the late Jacob Lupolianski's) shop, Uri incorporated his "chesed vision" as the Yad Sarah Organization, named after Jacob's mother

Sarah, who had perished in the Holocaust. Over time, that stockpile of medical equipment in a cluttered Jerusalem largest lending service of medical equipment – over 300,000 items, over 150 types of equipment – and over 180,000 equipment loans each year. A recent survey by the Dahaf Institute revealed that every second family in Israel was helped by one of Yad Sarah's services. 📞

How Yad Sarah Began



When Bonnie Friedman, Executive Director of the Pinellas County Jewish Federation, attended the Federation's General Assembly in Israel in November 2003, she took advantage of the conference's offer to explore any of several volunteer opportunities in a personal, "hands on" way. Ms. Friedman decided to tour Yad Sarah House in Jerusalem, observed the emergency alarm program at work, assembled a walker for Yad Sarah's extensive Lending Service and visited the Exhibition Center. Uri Lupolianski, Mayor of Jerusalem and the much admired founder of Yad Sarah was on hand to greet the General Assembly visitors and tell the inspiring story of how Yad Sarah began.

Pinnellas County/Hadera-Eiron "Connection" Yields a Generous Yad Sarah Gift

After that visit, the choice to support Yad Sarah was "easy" according to Ms. Friedman. The Federation wanted to do something to assist victims of terror. Yad Sarah's equipment lending service is its largest and most widely used service.

During the past three years, many more individuals have depended on Yad Sarah following acts of terror to borrow equipment -- and placing a heavy strain on its ability supply equipment to those in need.

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Teens Choose Yad Sarah as a Part of Bar and Bat Mitzvah Celebrations

A recent meeting between Daphna Weinstock, a teen from Riverdale, and the Mayor of Jerusalem will result in a gift of medical equipment for children with special needs. Uri Lupolianski, Mayor of Jerusalem and the founder of Yad Sarah, met with Daphna Weinstock and her family on his first official visit to the USA to express his gratitude.

"My brother and my sister did a chesed project [for their b'nai mitzvah], and so did my dad," Daphna said, and the teenager was proud to continue the family tradition. Daphna wanted to "help people in Israel, disabled people" and she hopes that her efforts will ultimately benefit disabled children at Yad Sarah's Play Center for Special Needs Children and their Families.

Erin Reiter from El Paso, Texas, also chose to support Yad Sarah in conjunction with her Bat Mitzvah celebration. In this case too, tzedaka began close to home. Anat

Reiter, a native Israeli, suggested Yad Sarah to her daughter. "Anytime my family needed something, Yad Sarah was there," said Mrs. Reiter. "Whether it was for my aging mom's diabetic care, my uncle's war injuries or my brother's newborn children, we counted on Yad Sarah to help."



Tamar Benus

Erin began by writing a letter to her Bat Mitzvah guests, friends and family, telling them about her project. The El Paso teen received more than 60 responses in advance of her Bat Mitzvah at Congregation Bnai Zion. Erin is thrilled to report that the combination of all these small gifts can buy 50 vaporizers or 6 infant scales, 15 blood pressure monitoring kits or four wheelchairs. Yad Sarah will lend these items over and over again, enabling a small gift to reach people again and again. "People can go [to Yad Sarah] and get help, even if they have no money," Erin said, "it is great to help families in Israel during hard times."

Bar/Bat Mitzvah projects in support of Yad Sarah are on the upswing. There is a range of activities and creativity resulting in increased services and programs at Yad Sarah in Israel. Tamar Benus of Brooklyn, New York chose a read-a-thon, raising funds for Yad Sarah with pledges received for each page of non-school related books. "This was a win-win situation" said Lisa Rosenzweig, Tamar's mother, as "she did something she enjoys and raised money for Yad Sarah at the same time." Tamar incorporated a trip to Israel and a visit to Yad Sarah House into her celebration, where she and her group assembled wheelchairs for distribution in the branches. The Benus family planned a luncheon in her honor at Yad Sarah's Golden Garden Café (food homemade by Yad Sarah volunteers!) and a ceremony for Tamar to present a check representing her efforts.

For Daphna, Erin, Tamar and others, working on behalf of Yad Sarah was a memorable and meaningful step on the road to becoming Bnot Mitzvah. If you're planning a Bar/Bat Mitzvah — whether in Israel or locally — there are many ways to connect chesed to your simcha. For more information or to discuss specific possibilities, please call Adele Goldberg (212-223-7758) at Yad Sarah's New York office. 📞




Mrs. Eva Koehler, wife of the President of Germany visited Yad Sarah on February 7th. "You are a wonderful organization. I bless this structure and everyone active in it," she said to all the volunteers in attendance. In the course of Mrs. Koehler's visit, she and her entourage toured the facilities and met with disabled patients and volunteers in the "Shikumon" -- the Yad Sarah Rehabilitation Center. Esther Zioni, one of the Shikumon patients, gave the VIP guest a present -- a colorful silk scarf, handmade by one of the patients. 🧣



Yad Sarah Brings Special Services to Sderot

In a show of solidarity with the people of Sderot, Yad Sarah volunteers are “attacking” this small town in Israel’s Negev desert with kindness. From February 21-24 Yad Sarah volunteers dispatched a cadre of services for the town’s residents. In some small way Yad Sarah hopes these on-site services will help ease the plight of this beleaguered city, said Pinchas Weil, head of Yad Sarah’s lending department. In past months Sderot, an economically struggling town in the Negev, has suffered from the tension and stress of living with almost daily Qassam rocket attacks from Gaza.

In some small way Yad Sarah hopes these on-site services will help ease the plight of this beleaguered city

During this period, Yad Sarah installed emergency home alarm systems at the homes of elderly who request them. In addition, the Mobile Dental Clinic and volunteer dental surgeons attended to the dental needs of elderly. Yad Sarah’s Mobile Exhibition Unit, staffed by occupational therapists, brought information about the many assistive aids available to improve quality of life for the disabled and elderly. Bathtub rails were installed free of charge in the homes of those who needed them. Special activities for special needs children added some festivity to the intensive four-day community assistance initiative. 




Yad Sarah Recognized as UN-ECOSOC Advisor First Israeli Jewish NGO to Achieve Consultative Status



In January, Yad Sarah became the first Israeli Jewish organization ever to be recognized as an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. This decision confers on Yad Sarah the highest status that a non-governmental organization can achieve at the global level.

Commenting on this honor, Meir Handelsman, Yad Sarah’s International Professional Relations Coordinator, said that the recognition “allows us to participate in international conferences convened by the UN on matters associated with our activities and to take part in special meetings of the General Assembly as well as discussions of other international bodies. Yad Sarah representatives will act as experts and advisors to governments and to UN institutions.” Handelsman noted that this newly designated status is first and foremost a tribute to the goals and operation of the organization, particularly the outstanding work done by its staff and devoted volunteers and donors.

The decision was spearheaded by the German committee representative and supported by France, Romania, and United States representatives and members from other countries. 





A Vital Array of Compassionate Health & Home Care Services for all Ages

Yad Sarah is the leading volunteer-staffed organization in the State of Israel. With the assistance of over 6,000 volunteers in more than 100 locations, Yad Sarah's volunteers provided help to over 380,000 people in 2004, addressing the home care needs of the frail and the disabled as well

as victims of terror, children with special needs, and homebound older adults. Yad Sarah's unique programs and services are financed almost completely by donations and over 80% of Yad Sarah's operating budget is raised in Israel. No government assistance is received.

Day Rehabilitation Centers

Physical and occupational therapy, computers, art, drama and gardening therapy, meals and social events for young and old recovering from strokes, surgery, injuries.

Geriatric Dental Clinic

Volunteer dentists provide a full range of specialized care for the aged, at Yad Sarah House in Jerusalem and via mobile clinics. This is one of the few geriatric dental centers in the world, training dentists to provide specialized care to a growing older population.

Golden Services Club

A network of pleasant meeting places for seniors — coffee, cake and conversation, films, magazines, lectures, and low-cost meals.

Guidance and Exhibition Centers

In model apartments that display equipment, the frail, disabled and their families have access to guidance and resources on home care with a goal of remaining independent at home.

Home Repair Service

Mobile workshops driven by skilled volunteers bring a quick fix-it to the homebound and elderly.

Laundry Service

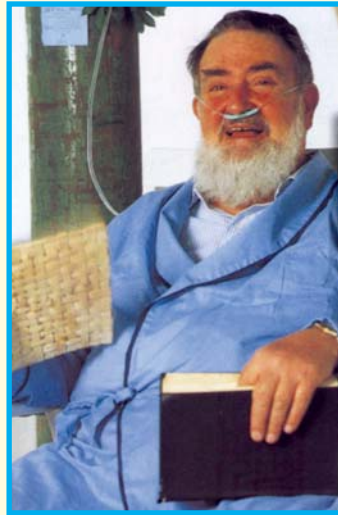
Yad Sarah's free home delivery of clean bedding eases the burden on family caregivers.

Legal Aid for Seniors — Yad Riva

Volunteer lawyers give their expertise in various specialized fields of law, making house calls if needed.

Lending Medical Equipment

Yad Sarah's best-known service — and no wonder. Over 320,000 items of medical and rehabilitative equipment are lent, from the most basic (crutches) to the most sophisticated (cardiac apnea monitors).



A Vital Array of Compassionate Health & Home Care Services for all Ages



Maintenance Workshops

Wheelchairs, walkers, vaporizers and other items lent by Yad Sarah are repaired and renovated by volunteer skilled pensioners and disabled people.

Meals and Meals-on-Wheels

For the elderly, a variety of tasty meals is delivered weekly.

Outreach to the Homebound

Volunteers visit and bring projects — handicrafts, computer instruction, indoor gardening — to activate hands and minds, and bring life-enriching social contact to the isolated elderly and disabled.

Oxygen Service

By supplying oxygen concentrators and standby cylinders, Yad Sarah enables thousands of people with respiratory problems to live at home.

Personal Alarm Systems

Elderly people living alone can find peace of mind (and so can their families) with the two-way transmitters which connect to Yad Sarah's national computerized emergency center 24 hours a day.

Play Center for Children with Special Needs and their Families

The whole family comes to this center to learn how to play with a child who has developmental or cognitive problems, and to borrow toys and games.


Transportation for the Disabled

Specially equipped vans with volunteer drivers take wheelchair-bound people to medical or social appointments. For many this is the only opportunity to leave home.

And that's not all!

Yad Sarah also has ... an information center for the elderly and their families ... home visits including help in food shopping ... and new services all the time, initiated and given by volunteers.

Yad Sarah By The Numbers

-  **\$320,000,000** estimated healthcare savings to the Israeli economy
-  **1,180,000** total volunteer hours per year.
-  **380,000+** people helped last year
-  **180,000** medical equipment loans
-  **98,000** people transported per year
-  **68,000** emergency calls responded to per year
-  **34,000** home visits per year through Homebound Projects Centers
-  **19,500** visits per year to our Day Rehabilitation Centers.
-  **14,500** emergency alarm subscribers.
-  **6,000** volunteers.
-  **5,500** patients treated by the Geriatric Dental Clinic
-  **150** different types of medical equipment for loan
-  **103** branches
-  **28** Yad Sarah vans in 8 centers (including one bulletproof van)
-  **14** locations of Yad Riva — Legal Services for the Elderly
-  **1** The number of people whose generous and continuing support makes all these services possible — people like YOU!





Yad Sarah in the News



Lupolianski's idea of lending out medical equipment required temporarily that could help patients remain at home rather than be hospitalized was as innovative as it was brilliant.

— *The Jerusalem Post (Editorial) - January 18, 2005*

With every terror attack, there may be 50 people wounded that require care and follow up ... donors help to insure Yad Sarah's readiness to meet these needs.

— *The Jewish Press of Pinellas County - March 27, 2004*



... one cannot find many extended families in Israel where a wheelchair or some other implement stamped with the organization's name is not present in one home or another.

— *The Jerusalem Post - November 19, 2004*

I would describe Yad Sarah as a second aid organization as opposed to a first aid organization ... we help people to leave the hospital for their homes as soon as practical for rehabilitation.

— *The Jewish Leader - January 8, 2004*



"The older people like working with us because it makes them feel young," says 19-year-old volunteer Rachel Chaver. "And I'm learning about life from them."

— *BabagaNewz - Tevet 5764*

Who Volunteers for Yad Sarah?

People like the Rishon LeZion accountant and graphic artist, Gai Guerstein. Gai is a 21-year-old who has been confined to a wheelchair since he was seven because of Muscular Dystrophy. After high school, despite his disability, Gai decided to volunteer at Yad Sarah.

"My experience in the Daily Rehabilitation Center has proved to me that Yad Sarah's disabled clients feel they need to be active, and that we can help," Mr. Guerstein observed. "Yad Sarah is like one big family. The volunteers have a strong friendship with each other, and of course, with the clients as well."

More than a few Yad Sarah volunteers readily admit to gaining more from their volunteer experience than they give – and Gai Guerstein is certainly one of them: "In the Day Rehabilitation Center I feel at home, like one of the family. Yad Sarah has helped me see that I can help people ... [I now realize that] I can work in any field regardless of my physical disabilities. This feeling has given me the strength to move on." ☺

A Remarkable Life, An Amazing Gift!

Rabbi Abraham J. and Pearl Ehrlich of Deerfield Beach, Florida, recently gave an extremely generous gift – one that will enable Yad Sarah to purchase more than 50 wheelchairs. Loyal supporters of several Torah learning and healthcare organizations Rabbi and Mrs. Ehrlich have an enduring history of devoted service to Israel and the Jewish community. Rabbi Ehrlich became more personally aware of Yad Sarah services when he needed to borrow a wheelchair during his visit to Israel last September.





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Our Newest Branch (#103!)

The newest branch of Yad Sarah at HaEmek Medical Center in Afula is the tenth branch operating directly out of Israeli hospitals. In-hospital branches of Yad Sarah help patients and families by providing them with immediate access to medical rehabilitative equipment for recuperation at home. Support from friends like you makes this possible!

Dental House Calls

One of Yad Sarah's newest advances is the portable dental treatment kit. It contains all necessary equipment for home dental treatment, enabling Yad Sarah's volunteer dental surgeons to provide quality care – from examinations and plaque scaling to extractions and denture fittings – for those who are homebound. According to Dr. Avi Zini, Director of Dental Services at

Yad Sarah, "Since 90 percent of all dental treatment does not require the full services of our mobile unit, our portable kits will enable us to treat more patients with ease and greater cost efficiency. A volunteer dentist can just pick up a kit from one of our 103 branches around the country, and go directly to the patient's home."

Yad Sarah's New Address in the USA

Friends of Yad Sarah has a new office at 450 Park Avenue (Suite 3201) in New York City. Building on more than a decade of growth and success under the direction of Els Bendheim, the New York office hopes to assist families and communities with dedication opportunities, Bnai Mitzvah chesed projects, planned giving, equipment collections and more. More new initiatives are in the works and will be announced soon. Stay tuned!



Their Funds at Work:

On a recent trip to Israel, members of Chicago's Lakeshore Drive Synagogue viewed the new medical equipment delivery van, acquired through their dedicated generosity.



Yad Sarah

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Pinnellas County/Hadera-Eiron "Connection" Yields a Generous Yad Sarah Gift

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"With every terror attack, there may be 50 people wounded that require care and follow up," said Daniel Sheer, Assistant

Director, Overseas Relations for Yad Sarah. As Yad Sarah receives no government funding, Mr. Sheer emphasized that grants and charitable gifts, such as the Pinellas County Federation's recent gift, were absolutely essential.



The partnership between the Pinellas County Jewish Federation and the Hadera-Eiron region started more than 4 years ago as part of Southeast Regional Consortium. "We have sent our teachers to Hadera, and we sent a medical team to teach Ethiopians about diabetes," Ms. Friedman noted. "We are working on a business to business program to help the Israeli economy and we've brought over campers from Israel to spend time in our local camps."

Like all Yad Sarah branches, the Hadera branch is centrally located and is run by a corps of 30 dedicated volunteers. Even the branch director, Malka Kovetz, is a volunteer "The branch is very much a part of the day to day life in this region," Ms. Kovetz observed. Last year, the Hadera branch served nearly 4,000 people from the Hadera-Eiron region with equipment loans, handicapped accessible transportation and other Yad Sarah services.



Ms. Friedman is quick to point out that this is a partnership in both deed and spirit: "We realize how very connected we are, and we feel very connected to these communities." Recalling the initial visit to Yad Sarah that started it all, she said, "I had an incredible day. I had planned to 'give back' but I got so much out of it. Yad Sarah is a fabulous place!"

