

RIVKA FOX ז'ל

On August 3, 2006, Queens Hadassah suffered a tremendous loss. Queens Hadassah lost its beloved Rivka after an eleven-year battle with cancer. None of us knew that Rivka was sick; none of us ever knew that she had gone out of remission in 2004. This was her wish to the very moment when she died, surrounded by her loving family.

Rivka was a passionate, transplanted Israeli who lived in the midst of the Israeli community in Queens. She joined Rei'ut Hadassah so that she could help her beloved Israel. As you know, Hadassah is a volunteer organization and Rivka gave her time, energy, intellect and passion with a full heart and pure soul. Rivka was President of *Rei'ut* Hadassah and the director of Queens Hadassah's *Yesodot* School.

Rivka brought sunlight and laughter with her when she entered a room. She loved and lived life with passion and joy. Rivka was kind and good; bright and intuitive; she gave willingly of herself and asked nothing in return. Rivka loved her family and her friends and her life was filled with *mitzvot* and acts of *hesed*.

Rivka loved to dance and she loved to teach. She taught Israeli folk dance and Hebrew and she brought her laughter and joy of life to both. Rivka was born in Israel and lived in the midst of the Israeli community in Queens. She joined Hadassah so that she could work for her beloved Israel. Rivka was President of *Rei'ut*, our Israeli chapter of Hadassah. Somewhere along the road of her Hadassah travels, she fell in love with Queens Hadassah – “American Hadassah” as she lovingly referred to us.

Rivka understood that there could be no *Rei'ut* Hadassah without Queens Region Hadassah and she understood that Queens Hadassah had to grow and become strong. Rivka became Queens Region Hadassah's first Israeli Area Vice President; she started and directed the only Hebrew-speaking group of Young Judaea in the country. And in 2004, precisely when she went out of remission, she became Organization Vice President of Queens Hadassah and dedicated herself to the good of a Hadassah Region in transition. She would have been installed as Queens Region President on May 20, 2007. Rivka believed that she would help Queens Hadassah stabilize and grow; she never believed that she would lose her battle with cancer.

In 2007, Northeast Queens Jewish Community Council renamed its ***Outstanding Youth Award*** in loving memory of Rivka Fox.

May her life and her memory be a blessing for all of us.

– ***Dr. Sandra Alfonsi****

**Dr. Alfonsi is National Vice President of Hadassah and former Queens Region President*