

READERS' LETTERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
 Sir, - Although my sympathy for the hospital nurses was high to begin with, my understanding of the crisis in our hospitals was starkly improved this week when my wife was hospitalized at Hadassah (Ein Kerem). I suggest that Hadassah board members spend a few nights on the hospital wards, to witness firsthand the overcrowded quarters, with beds in the corridors and terribly overworked nurses and doctors. They could also compare the grandeur of Mt. Scopus with the increasingly makeshift drabness of once-proud Ein Kerem.

These difficult hospital conditions, a national malaise, have their price. After 11 hours of fasting and pre-operation anxiety, my wife was taken to surgery, fixed with I.V. and prepared for surgery. She then witnessed an argument between the anesthesiologist and surgeon. The overworked anesthesiologist, going non-stop for many hours, simply refused to do another case. The overworked doctor tried to persuade him to go on just a bit more (all in the patient's presence), but 45 minutes later, my wife was wheeled back to her ward and re-scheduled for surgery the next morning.

HOSPITAL CONDITIONS

Both doctors were right, both were equally concerned for the patient. But the unfortunate patient is a victim of a hospital system that nearly worries you to death, while eventually providing excellent medical care. One must be grateful for the results, but angry over hospital conditions that are not consonant with modern patient care.

So fight on, brave nurses, tell the prime minister and the minister of health what it is like to work in Israeli hospitals today, every day, and don't let go until you can change things. No one else seems to care. Stop working for peanuts and serving as shock absorbers for inadequate social policy.

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READERS' LETTERS**CALL FOR CHANGE AT YOUTH ALIYA**

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
 Sir, - Charles Hoffman, shame on you for insinuating that Youth Aliya is obsolescent (May 23). Don't you know that, as long as the UJA agrees to allocate \$52 million annually (of the money it sends to the Jewish Agency) for Youth Aliya, and as long as Hadassah Women sit on the Agency's governing bodies (as World Zionist Organization representatives), and as long as the heads of Youth Aliya are political party appointees - no one cares whether it is obsolescent or not? When you're dealing with political power, super-fundraising and organizational survival, reporters like you (and social work educators like me) simply obscure matters by talking about current child-care needs, new directions, family and community services, reduced boarding-home care, more foster care, and more Project Renewal.

Unfortunately, donors abroad have never studied Israeli child welfare or held a dialogue with independent, non-party, professional social workers and academics about current directions in child care. If they had, they could have appreciated why their right hand (Project Renewal) works at cross purposes with the left hand (Youth Aliya).

Perhaps when the donor leadership takes the time to get their own facts, takes control of their own money spent over here, and stops being intimidated by Israeli political leaders in the Agency with vested interests, only then can we expect some real change at Youth Aliya and at the Jewish Agency. I only hope it happens in my lifetime.

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