**Annual report of Temple Israel Sisterhood, 4/18/2021**

One of the Sisterhood’s goals has always been to connect people in a supportive community and foster friendships, and that has only felt more important since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the reality of a new situation hit, Sisterhood organized with other temple members to make early check-in phone calls to Temple Israel congregants. Also, within the Sisterhood, those who signed up were paired with a fellow member they may not know well with the assignment to have a get-to-you-know phone call; some friendships were launched in this way. Aiming to support parents in our temple and broader community, we helped to put on two online “Education Roundtables,” in which local educators provided information and answered questions related to the unique circumstances of the upcoming school year. Additionally, Sisterhood members sewed over 100 child-sized masks that we donated to Hartsfield Elementary School.

We paused our regular gatherings for a month to “see how this COVID-19 issue would develop,” then quickly moved most of what we’ve been doing to Zoom. Online, we hold a weekly social Koffee Klotch, a monthly book group, Rosh Chodesh meet-ups on a monthly theme, and monthly board meetings. Thanks to our persistent, hard-working, and caring Spinning Dreidel crew, the Judaica shop has found ways to continue to serve the community with valued Jewish-related ceremonial and educational items. We’ve been trying to be savvier with our promotion/visual presence in the Temple Times; a shout-out to Debra Katz (sadly, moving away!), who created our Canva artwork this year. Also, guided by Lesley Mendelson, we’ve been reviewing our Sisterhood Constitution and preparing updates, which we will be voting on soon. On 3/21/21, we held our first in-person regular Sisterhood gathering in a year: outdoors, masked, distanced, and attendance-limited, at Tom Brown Park. It was supposed to be “Art in the Park” but turned into a joyful “Talking and Walking in the Park,” since we had so much to catch up on. That event was combined with our annual Party for a Cause: We collected monetary contributions to help support a refugee family who have recently arrived in Tallahassee. We’ve also newly begun Tikkun Olam projects, coordinated by Debbie Mann—So far we’ve picked up litter at Tom Brown Park, and we have other plans in store. Additionally this year, we honored and said goodbye to our friend Jill Klein as she stepped down from years of running the Festival Baking, with great skill, efficiency, and dedication, to move to South Florida—but the good news for us is that she still attends Zoom Koffee Klotch and book group.

Finally, a highlight of the past year was the publication of *To Food, To Life, L’Chaim!*—a Sisterhood cookbook commemorating this group’s 90th(!) anniversary in 2019. (Sisterhood was started as a community-based organization prior to the founding of Temple Israel.) This cookbook could not have been created without the extraordinary dedication, time, and hard work of Martha Billings, Susan Turner, Sherrie Mendelson, Lesley Mendelson, Lisa Harris, and Joanna Novey. The first print run sold out but we have reprinted, and copies are available! Just contact The Spinning Dreidel, our temple Judaica shop. We are also pleased that, with proceeds from the cookbook sales, we were able to give $4000.00 to Temple Israel to support renovations.

We have more in store in the near future, including a visit to a Frenchtown community garden, a Rosh Chodesh event in which we’ll learn about counting the Omer, and a Shavuot study session and celebration. We are so grateful to be part of this synagogue and this Sisterhood, which have made the challenging past year easier and have helped us to stay connected. Here’s to continuing good things to come.

Yours with fun, friendship, and persistence,

Carol Frank, President, Temple Israel Sisterhood