PRESIDENTS REPORT

We have managed to survive a whole year of the COVID pandemic! Most of us had to get used to seeing loved ones on Zoom and Facetime and no family get-togethers. It was especially difficult for members whose loved ones were in nursing homes or hospitals. As sad as it was we are grateful for our own and our families’ health. With expanding vaccination availability and the return of warmer weather we look forward to seeing everyone in person.

In spite of all the restrictions we have persevered with programs on Zoom, phone calls to our sisters and a very successful Shalach Manot delivery to our local members. Thank you to Liza for finding us such a good deal on Hamentashen and to our many volunteers who drove all over town for deliveries!

We held our Sisterhood Shabbat and Spirituality retreat on Zoom and both events were a big hit. Many thanks to Rabbi Rochelle Tulik for an excellent retreat program. The focus was on Sharing the burden, finding balance in leadership and living. We always look forward to meeting in person, but the Zoom platform worked well too!

We had an excellent book discussion on The Color of Love: The Memoir of a Mixed Race Jewish Girl, by Marra B. Gad. It was organized by Charlene Caplan and moderated by Karen Morris. And we continue with our movie reviews every month. We also had a fun trivia game on Zoom organized by Karen DeCross.

Our Passover tastings program was a bit creative as well. We had Geulah Von Perlstein give a cooking demonstration of a couple of her Passover favorites and all participants received recipes submitted for this event.

The Fried conference was on Zoom this year as well. Although we missed the personal connections, this platform allowed people from all over North America to participate. The programs were varied and educational, it was well organized, and the music was especially uplifting.

We tried a new fundraising activity this year by partnering with Benucci’s on April 13th. For every lunch/dinner purchased the restaurant will give back 10% to our Sisterhood. If it is successful, be on the lookout for future restaurant partners.

These unusual times have shown how adaptable our organization can be to keep in touch with our Sisters without endangering their health. We will continue to improvise as long as we need to and we encourage you, our members, to share any helpful suggestions to continue to stay in touch. So stay healthy and get vaccinated if possible so that we can soon be back together!

Monica Skerker (381-9367) and Susan Fogal (381-7056),
Co-Presidents

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR OUR PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

If you are interested, please contact Liza Robbins Theuman at ltheuman@rochester.rr.com. Our first meeting will be scheduled on an evening in July.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COURTYARD GARDEN

Do you like to putter around in the garden? This spring we will be continuing our project to clean up and beautify the Temple’s Inner Courtyard. We will start by finishing the weeding and removal of some old bushes. Then we will plant some low maintenance plants. We will need a crew of volunteers to finish the project and then to maintain it throughout the growing season. Volunteers can work independently and on your own schedule, as little or as much as you can/want. Once we get a crew together we can coordinate our schedules, but so far we’ve had only a few people working at a time.

Please call Susan 381-7056 or Monica 381-9367 if you can help out.
WRJ/TBK SISTERHOOD IS GRATEFUL TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS:

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WRJ/TBK SISTERHOOD YES FUND
Contributed by:
Monica & Herb Skerker

In Memory of:
Jacob Katz

Thank You!
HELP US CREATE AN AMAZING FUNDRAISER FOR 2021!

As we continue to collect recipes for our WRJ/TBK Sisterhood cookbook, we are reaching out to our Sisters for those special family recipes and creations. Also needed are members to join a cookbook committee. All interested ladies please contact Liza Robbins Theuman at ltheuman@rochester.rr.com.

COLLEGE CONNECTION

In March, the College Connection committee mailed packages to 23 students for Passover and spring. The packages included sticker sheets and scenes (with Moses at the burning bush, parting the Red Sea, accepting the Ten Commandments, and floating as a baby down the river) as well as pop-up plastic frogs, bright colored butterfly shaped seed paper, Elite Kosher for Passover mini chocolate bars, and Oneg Kosher for Passover aleph bet shaped gummy candies. We enclosed a colorful note which included planting instructions for the seed paper.

Everything besides the note and sticker sheets and scenes were wrapped in bright tissue paper and packaged in an envelope with a colorful paint splatter print.

VIRTUAL MOVIE DISCUSSIONS

We continue to meet every month (on Zoom) to discuss movies that are available on Netflix, HBO, Amazon Prime or at the Public Library. We choose movies based on our attendees’ preferences. The reviews vary, not everyone likes every movie we choose, but everyone loves the discussion and idea exchange afterwards. The topics vary greatly but we always learn something new. The past few months we watched The Life Ahead, Ma Rainey, The Butler and Prom. Please watch for emails with the Zoom link and the movie for that month. For more information contact Monica Skerker at 381-9367 or mskerk26@gmail.com.

WRJ/TBK SISTERHOOD THANKS….

Special Donors to the Education Fund
William Colombo In Memory of Barbara Colombo
Danette & Fred Weingarten In Memory of Harry Weingarten, Ita Weingarten, and Marc Weiss

Special Donors to the Floral & Temple Beautification Fund
Dave Beck In Memory of Nancy F. Beck

Special Donors to the YES Fund
Monica & Herb Skerker In Memory of Jacob Katz

Special Donors to the Youth Fund
Karen Altman In Memory of Benjamin Altman, Philip Block, and Peggy Cameros

WRJ/TBK SISTERHOOD SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2021-2022

President: Monica Skerker
VP Hospitality: Susan Fogal
VP Membership: Monica Gurell
VP Programming and Education: Liza Robbins Theuman
Co-Treasurers: Jane Levy/Sue Lurie
Recording Secretary: Sandra Kushner
Corresponding Secretary: Amy Iserson
Assistant Corresponding Secretary: Beverly Weinstein

Directors 2021-2023:
Paula Ouzer-Mauro
Randy Perlson
Gail Pogal
Francine Swire

Directors 2020-2022:
Karen DeCoss
Rhonda Korn
Julia Walsh

Thank you to our Nominating Committee: Ellen Solomon-Chair,
Charlene Caplan, Randy Perlson,
Julia Walsh, Dawn Wisset,
Gladys Wolsky, Beth Seeley-Ex-Officio

If you or anyone you know might be interested in a future position on our board, please contact Ellen Solomon at 131ellens@gmail.com or 244-7011.

WWW/TBK SISTERHOOD FUND

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Special Donors to the Youth Fund
Monica & Herb Skerker In Memory of Jacob Katz
Special Donors to the YES Fund
Monica & Herb Skerker In Memory of Jacob Katz

In Memory of: Life Ahead, Ma Rainey, The Butler and Prom.
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

WRJ/TBK Sisterhood welcomes our new members:

Susan Trien

The best way to make membership a meaningful experience is to give your time and/or talent. As the Temple and community depend on us, so we depend on you! We are involved in so many things, on so many different levels, that we are sure that you will find something that fits you just right! We hope to see you soon!

Name _________________________________________________________

Phone_________________________________________________________

# of recipients @ $1.00__________________ Total $ __________________

Make checks payable to WRJ/TBK Sisterhood. Mail to the Sisterhood Office, 2131 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14618.
**ONGOING**

**Knitting/Crocheting** The group is currently meeting virtually once a month. For further information, please contact Diane Pinchoff at 446-0384 or adpinchoff@yahoo.com or Julia Walsh at 244-6249 or juliawalshroc@gmail.com.

**Mah Jongg** There are opportunities for virtual play. For more information, please contact the Sisterhood office at wrj@tbk.org or 244-7060, ext. 233.

**Blessed Sacrament** Unfortunately, we cannot participate in our usual volunteer activities at Blessed Sacrament right now.

**Donations** Please remember to bring a food donation in support of various food pantries, cosmetics for women’s shelters and baby food.

**“Box Tops for Education” and “Labels for Education” for School 52** Please save these labels found on Campbell’s and General Mills food products packages. Deposit any time in the box outside the WRJ/TBK Sisterhood Office.

**Donations for Tempro** Please continue to collect travel size and full size shampoo, soaps and creams which we will distribute to the Tempro houses.

*If you’re planning to drop off at TBK, please call the temple office before coming.*

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**CALENDAR**

**May 2021**

- Mon. May 10  Movie Discussion 4:00pm
- Tues. May 11  May Open Board Meeting
- Tues. May 18  Chai Lunch at Harris Whalen Park Upper Pavilions (2126 Penfield Road)

**June 2021**

- Sun. June 6  Sisterhood Board Orientation
- Sun. June 13  Sisterhood Board Orientation Rain Date
- Mon. June 14  Movie Discussion 4:00pm
- Fri. June 18  Chai Lunch at Tinker Nature Park (1525 Calkins Road)

**July 2021**

- Sun. July 18  Chai Lunch at Brighton Town Park (777 Westfall Road)

**August 2021**

- Wed. August 18  Chai Lunch at Perinton Park (99 O’Connor Road)
“He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Wherefore I now bring the first fruits of the soil which You, O Lord, have given me.”

Deuteronomy 26:9-10