The Ezra-Habanim, Niles Township Jewish Congregation

SISTERHOOD CORNER——April, 2018

Judy Frank, President (judy@tcscorp.com)      Diane Rosenfeld, Editor (raynesd@aol.com)

From the President’s Desk...

Thank you to all who made our 6th Annual Women’s Seder another huge success! A special thank you to Julie Weill for her creative Haggadah. It was so moving for all of us because it had all the important elements. The message of who we are and what is really important came through in a very touching way. Julie’s leadership skills really shined at this event! A hearty shout-out to Francine Schulman who prepared the food—the seder plates looked great, and to Davida Grossman and Ronia Gross for the beautiful tables!

On April 18th our Book Club will discuss “Waking Lions” by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen (see below). And, we hope you will join us on Thursday, May 3rd at 7:30 p.m., as we welcome local author Renée Rosen to discuss her latest book “Windy City Blues”, with a special dessert reception (flyer enclosed).

Also in May, our Sisterhood Shabbat will take place on Saturday, May 5th. If you would like to participate, please return the enclosed flyer by April 15th. The Torah Fund Luncheon will be on Wednesday, May 9th, with guest speaker Rabbi Kenneth Berger. Our Culminating Luncheon will be on Wednesday, June 6th. We hope to see you at these wonderful programs!

B’Shalom! Judy Frank

News and Notes...

- Be a media mogul! A $5 contribution makes you a sponsor of our Sisterhood bulletin. Please mail your contributions to:
  Diane Rosenfeld c/o EHNTJC Sisterhood
  4500 Dempster Street • Skokie, IL 60076

  Our Media Moguls this month are:
  Marcy Feinberg,
  Esther Javetz (in memory of my beloved brother—Amnon, who created a beautiful, Israeli-patriotic family),
  Bobbie Levin,
  Dori Marks (in honor of our grandson, Eli’s Bar Mitzvah),
  Diane Rosenfeld (in honor of my granddaughter, Ella Jade Shmarak’s Bat Mitzvah) and
  Judith-Rae Ross

If you have news to share, contact Diane Rosenfeld at raynesd@aol.com.
- Sisterhood donation cards are 8/$10 and the Chai cards are 6/$18. The cards are available in the synagogue office or through our Gift Shop.
- Our Sisterhood continues to make shawls for breast cancer patients. The synagogue office has copies of the instructions. For more information, call Idelle Peaceman at (847)254-7745.

BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS

“Waking Lions”
by Ayelet Gundar-Goshen

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on Wednesday, April 18th at 10:30 a.m. at the synagogue.

After one night's deadly mistake, a man will go to any lengths to save his family and his reputation....

Neurosurgeon Eitan Green has the perfect life—married to a beautiful police officer and father of two young boys. Then, speeding along a deserted moonlit road after an exhausting hospital shift, he hits someone. Seeing that the man, an African migrant, is beyond help, he flees the scene.

When the victim's widow knocks at Eitan's door the next day, holding his wallet and divulging that she knows what happened, Eitan discovers that her price for silence is not money. It is something else entirely, something that will shatter Eitan's safe existence and take him into a world of secrets and lies he could never have anticipated.

“Waking Lions” is a gripping, suspenseful, and morally devastating drama of guilt and survival, shame and desire from a remarkable young author on the rise.

Please join us for a lively discussion! Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to one of our Book Club Chairs:
Dorothy Lipstadt (847)673-3525
Elaine Lampert (847)537-1240
Judith Rae-Ross (847)708-4541

EHNTJC Sisterhood
is affiliated with the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism
Good and Welfare...

- **Mazel Tov** to Diane Rosenfeld on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Ella Jade Shmarak.
- **Mazel Tov** to Dori Marks on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Eli Marks.
- **Mazel Tov** to Evie Ruebner on the birth of her new grandson, Jonah Matthew Sanders.
- **Mazel Tov** to Julie Weill on being selected as our Sisterhood’s Valued Volunteer for 2017-2018.
- **Our condolences** to Caryn Bark on the loss of her mother-in-law, Brenda Huss.
- **Our condolences** to Joan Olson on the loss of her brother, Melvyn Fogel.
- **Our condolences** to Roz Cherry on the loss of her husband, Sherwin.

**TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU**

- To all my friends at EHNTJC.....you made me very happy getting the great birthday greetings with so many women’s names on the Leagram! Many thanks to one and all.....Ruth Saffro.
- Thank you to the EHNTJC Sisterhood for your card and good wishes in honor of my granddaughter, Ella’s Bat Mitzvah.....Diane Rosenfeld.

**GIFT SHOP GAB: VOLUME EIGHTEEN**

The gift shop has had a wonderful response in the past couple of weeks. We have two different collections of unisex socks that are “flying out of our cases”. We also purchased a small selection of gifts for men that seem to be doing well. We have a light-up “Man Cave” sign that is perfect for men of all ages (teens to 100). It is electric and has an on/off switch, so no batteries are needed. It is only $35 and can be ordered and received in about one week.

Our tabletop miniature pool tables have also been well received. For the low price of $15, they are fun for everyone. We also have “mini” putting greens and soccer games for only $5 that can please anyone.

Our second e-blast has been sent, and it featured Passover items and a couple of other sale items. All of our Passover items (except our two soft cover books) are 50% off - or feel free to “bundle” for a better discount. We are looking to “clear out the old and bring in the new” for the coming spring season.

Please tell your friends about our gift shop. If you can bring in a NEW customer who mentions your name, you will receive a $10 credit to use in our gift shop.

Marcy Feinberg and Ronia Gross  
Gift Shop Co-Chairs

**The Omer Period and Lag B’Omer** by Diane Rosenfeld

We count the Omer on each of the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. On the second day of Passover, in the days of the Temple, an Omer (literally a “sheaf”) of barley was cut down and brought to the Temple as an offering to thank G-d for the harvest. The Talmud tells us that Rabbi Akiva had 24,000 students who died from a plague during the Omer Period because they did not treat each other with respect. Because of this, it is a semi-mourning period. There are restrictions on what Jews can do during the Omer. Jewish weddings should not take place, and one should refrain from listening to instrumental music, having haircuts and shaving.

According to a medieval tradition, the plague stopped on the 33rd day of the Omer, Lag B’Omer. The Hebrew letters lamed and gimel which make up the acronym ‘lag’ have the combined numerical value of 33. As a result, Lag B’Omer became a happy day, interrupting the sadness of the Omer Period for 24 hours. It has become a minor holiday. People picnic and participate in outdoor activities and children play with bows and arrows. In Israel, people plant trees. It is also customary to light bonfires, and many weddings take place on this date.