Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation

SISTERHOOD CORNER—December, 2018
Judy Frank, President (judy@tcscorp.com)  Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

From the President’s Desk...
I am pleased to mention the nice events happening in our Sisterhood. On Sunday, November 18th we held a very successful Holiday Boutique! A big thank you to all those who shopped at the boutique and the many volunteers who helped to make it such a wonderful success.

Our Sisterhood will be celebrating Chanukah on Wednesday, December 5th with our annual Latke Luncheon, with entertainment provided by Bibi Marcell. On December 12th, our Book Club will meet to discuss “The Lost City of the Monkey God” by Douglas Preston.

And then we’ll take a break from the cold weather and hibernate during the month of January as there will be no meetings, programs or book club. We look forward to seeing everyone in February when we have planned a luncheon and the movie “The Band’s Visit”.

Best wishes for a Happy Chanukah and a peaceful New Year!
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:
  Judy Arkin c/o EHNTJC Sisterhood
  4500 Dempster Street  • Skokie, IL  60076

Our Media Moguls this month are:
  Esther Berman
  (in memory of Abe & Sara Yelen),
  Marcy Feinberg, Ricki Herling
  (in honor of her beautiful
granddaughters—Olivia and Violet),
  Esther Javetz (in honor of Dr. Zivit
  Cohen’s birthday),
  Bobbie Levin, Evie Lowenthal,
  Dori Marks, Idelle Peaceman
  (Happy Chanukah & Happy New Year),
  and Ada Rabinowitz

If you have news to share, contact Judy Arkin at kjarkin99@comcast.net.
➢ 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.
➢ Thank you to the knitters who contribute their time to work on shawls for breast cancer patients at North Shore Hospitals. The synagogue office has copies of the instructions. For more information, call Idelle Peaceman at (847)254-7745.

EHNTJC Sisterhood
is affiliated with the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism

BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS

“The Lost City of the Monkey God”
by Douglas Preston

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on Wednesday, December 12th at 10:30 a.m. at the synagogue.

A five-hundred-year-old legend. An ancient curse. A stunning medical mystery. And a pioneering journey into the unknown heart of the world’s densest jungle.

In 2012, bestselling author Doug Preston joined a team of scientists on a groundbreaking new quest, he climbing aboard a rickety, single-engine plane carrying the machine that would change everything: lidar, a highly advanced, classified technology that could map the terrain under the densest rainforest canopy. In an unexplored valley ringed by steep mountains, that flight revealed the unmistakable image of a sprawling metropolis, tantalizing evidence of not just an undiscovered city but an enigmatic, lost civilization.

Preston and the team battled torrential rains, quickmud, disease-carrying insects, jaguars, and deadly snakes. But it wasn’t until they returned that tragedy struck: Preston and others found they had contracted in the ruins a horrifying, sometimes lethal-and incurable-disease.

Suspenseful and shocking, filled with colorful history, hair-raising adventure, and dramatic twists of fortune, “THE LOST CITY OF THE MONKEY GOD” is the absolutely true, eyewitness account of one of the great discoveries of the twenty-first century.

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
Good and Welfare...

- Wishing a Refuah Shlayma (a complete and speedy recovery) to Paulette Levy and JoAnne Dobrick.
- Mazel Tov to Helen Zaremski on the marriage of her son, Michael to Erika Martinez.
- Mazel Tov to Charlotte Resis on her granddaughter, Avigayle Resis’ Bat Mitzvah at the Ida Crown Jewish Academy.
- Mazel Tov to Charlotte Resis on the birth of her 30th great-grandson. She also has 5 great-granddaughters.

TODAH RABAH ● תודה רבה ● THANK YOU

- Thank you to Dorothy Lipstadt for her kind donation to our Sisterhood with thanks for making her 98th birthday such a wonderful day!
- A special thank you to Esther Manewith for all the terrific publicity she brings to our Sisterhood!
- Thank you for the donations to EHNTJC in honor of my 80th birthday......Sally Jablo.

CHANUKAH – THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

by Gloriann Levy

Chanukah begins on the evening of the 24th of Kislev and lasts till the 2nd of Tevet, which corresponds to December 2nd – December 10th, 2018.

As with all other Jewish festivals, there is a dual origin to Chanukah – seasonal and historical. The historical story took place around 165 B.C. E. when Judah the Maccabee led a revolt against the Hellenistic Syrians and against all odds, was victorious. The Syrians had completely defiled the Temple with pig sacrifices and statues of idols. After the revolt, the Temple was rededicated and only one cruse of sacramental oil was found. The oil was supposed to burn for only one day and it miraculously lasted for 8 days, during which time other oil was prepared. Some say that the oil was the miracle of Chanukah, while others maintain that the victory by the Maccabees was the miracle!

The seasonal reference of Chanukah has to do with the connection to the winter solstice, which occurs during the Holiday. There is also a connection to the kindling of fire in the Temple and the close proximity of Chanukah to the Holiday of Christmas, has made it very popular today!

In commemoration of Chanukah, the only special Mitzvah is to kindle the lights each night. The candles are placed in a “Chanukiah” (candelabrum) which has 8 level openings and a 9th elevated opening for the “Shamash”. The Shamash candle is lit first and is used to light the other candles. On the first night, one candle is lit, on the second night, two candles are lit and so on until the last night when all eight candles are lit.

Common dishes served on Chanukah are dairy treats and foods cooked in oil. Potato latkes and jelly donuts “sufganiot” are some examples.

There is also a long tradition of playing games of chance during the evenings of the holiday. The most widely played game is Dreidel, a derivative of an old German game of chance. At present, it is played with a 4-sided top, on which the Hebrew letters – Nun, Gimel, Hey and Shin are inscribed. These letters stand for the Hebrew words “Ness, Gadol, Haya and Sham” - A Great Miracle Happened There. In Israel, the Dreidel has the Hebrew letter – Nun, Gimel, Hey and Peh – which stand for – “A Great Miracle Happened Here!”

Best wishes for a very Happy Chanukah!

Gift Shop Gab: Volume Twenty-Four

We’re very excited to report on the gift shop this month. Our November program provided us with many enthusiastic buyers. Our total sales were a spectacular $962!

We were geared up for our big Boutique which took in between $1,500-1,800. And of course, there’s our December program and the Boutique at Marcy’s Michigan home. We can only hope that these wonderful sales continue all through the holiday season.

Thanks from your Gift Shop Co-chairs!

Sandi Cowen
Marcy Feinberg
Adrienne Tannner

A Big Welcome to Our New Sisterhood Members:

Judy Friedman
Frances Givertz
Ellen Lebowicz
Audrey Trotsky
Shyrlene Weiner

What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.

John Steinbeck

Holiday Boutique

by Phyllis Dickstein

The 2018 Sisterhood boutique is now a memory and all I have to say is WOW! So far I have received two thank you emails from vendors about how great the boutique was, how warm and friendly everyone was and what a good time they had. Please pat yourselves on the back as you all came through for our Sisterhood. You not only volunteered, but you shopped. I never saw a cashier without a line waiting.

Thank you especially to Judy Frank and Judy Arkin who were my resources as I had never orchestrated anything quite this size before. You ladies were great, as were all the volunteers. Everything went so smoothly and we all worked together.