From the President’s Desk...

We had a fun afternoon celebrating Tu B’Shevat last week. The weather cooperated and over 50 women (and a few men!) joined us for a delicious lunch and several fun games of bingo. Congratulations to our winners!

In February, the Book Club will meet on the 14th to discuss “The Marriage of Opposites” by Alice Hoffman, and the synagogue will be celebrating Purim with four different shows of ‘Saving Mordecai’—the annual Purim Shpiel. This is one program you won’t want to miss!

On March 7th, our luncheon will come from Hungarian Kosher Foods and the featured speaker will be Lynn Kirsche Shapiro, co-owner of Hungarian Foods and the author of “Food, Family and Tradition: Hungarian Kosher Family Recipes and Remembrances”. On March 14th, the Book Club will discuss “The Waiting Room” by Leah Kaminsky. Our 6th Annual Women’s Seder led by Rebbetzin Julie Weill will take place on Wednesday evening, March 21st at 7:30 p.m.

We hope to see you at many of our upcoming 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:
Esther Berman, Marcy Feinberg,
Ricki Herling (in honor of her beautiful
granddaughters—Olivia and Violet),
Esther Javetz (in memory of my beloved
mother—Nava Shachar, a life-long
teacher),
Bobbie Levin, Evie Lowenthal,
Idelle Peaceman (in beloved memory of
my father—Max Narter),
Ada Rabinowitz (in honor of Judy Frank),
Diane Rosenfeld 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.
➢ A big WELCOME to our new Sisterhood member – Phyllis Silverman.

BOOK CLUB TO DISCUSS

“The Marriage of Opposites”
by Alice Hoffman

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on Wednesday, February 14th at 10:30 a.m. at the synagogue.

Growing up on idyllic St. Thomas in the early 1800s, Rachel dreams of life in faraway Paris. Rachel’s mother, a pillar of their small refugee community of Jews who escaped the Inquisition, has never forgiven her daughter for being a difficult girl who refuses to live by the rules. Growing up, Rachel’s salvation is their maid Adelle’s belief in her strengths, and her deep, life-long friendship with Jestine, Adelle’s daughter. But Rachel’s life is not her own. She is married off to a widower with three children to save her father’s business. When her older husband dies suddenly and his handsome, much younger nephew, Frédérick, arrives from France to settle the estate, Rachel seizes her own life story, beginning a defiant, passionate love affair that sparks a scandal that affects all of her family, including her favorite son, who will become one of the greatest artists of France.

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
Purim Customs Around the World!

by Diane Rosenfeld

Afghanistan: The children drew pictures of Haman on planks or cardboard. During the Megillah reading, the planks were thrown to the ground and trampled on, making a lot of noise. Wooden sandals were held in the hands and clapped together, also making a loud noise. The synagogue carpets were taken up, and the congregants trampled underneath them, in case Haman was hiding there.

Algeria: Many wax candles were lit for the Purim meal; children were invited to light the candles as on Hanukkah!

France: Children used to take smooth stones, write or engrave Haman’s name on them, and strike them together during the Megillah reading whenever Haman’s name was mentioned, in order to erase it, in compliance with the verse, “I shall surely wipe out the memory of Amalek”. 

Italy: The youngsters would divide into two camps and throw nuts at each other. The adults rode through the streets of the town on horseback, with cypress branches in their hands. They also placed an effigy of Haman in a high place, and encircled it, to the sound of trumpets.

Salonika: “Haman-shaped” cakes were baked on the eve of “Shabbat Zachor”, and placed on the window ledges until the festive Purim meal. During the meal, the cakes were sliced so that participants could fulfill the precepts “And they shall devour Haman with open mouth”.

Good and Welfare...

- Wishing a Refuah Shlayma (a complete and speedy recovery) to Marilyn Usen, Evelyne Sternfeld, Marsha Newman and Heddie Romanoff.
- Our condolences to Henely Friedman Kramer on the loss of her husband, Melvin Kramer.
- Our condolences to Judy Frank on the loss of her brother-in-law, Melvin Kramer.
- Our condolences to Lillian Lang on the loss of her mother, Esther Rasson.
- Mazel Tov to Rabbi Neil Brief on the birth of his great-granddaughter, Elah Aden Brief.
- Mazel Tov to Miffie and Sy Nagorsky on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Raffie Nagorsky.
- Mazel Tov to Shirley and Marty Lubowich on their 71st wedding anniversary and their 90th birthdays.

TODAH RABAH ● תודא רבה ● THANK YOU

- Thank you to all for your very kind thoughts and letters of condolence in memory of Cy’s brother, Steve. We appreciate it deeply…..Sally Jablo.

CALLING ALL COOKS!

We are still collecting recipes for our Sisterhood cookbook. We need recipes for all categories, but especially desserts and holiday favorites. Remember that all recipes must be strictly kosher. Vegan recipes must not include any type of meat, fowl, fish, eggs, dairy products or honey. Please mark all recipes as to whether they are meat, dairy, parve, vegan, vegetarian and/or Kosher for Passover.

Our goal is to have the cookbook available for sale at our Opening Luncheon next September. You can send your recipes to the synagogue office, drop them in the recipe box on the table in the synagogue lobby or e-mail them to Joanne Abelman at Joabelman1@aol.com.

You can also bring them to any of our upcoming March programs!

OUR DISTINGUISHED JEWISH WOMEN—PAST AND PRESENT: Rabbi Sally Priesand

by Joanne Stein

Sally Priesand, who would become the first female rabbi in the United States, was born in 1946 in Cleveland, Ohio. From an early age, she knew that she wanted to become a rabbi.

At Hebrew Union College, the president admitted her to the rabbinical school despite the misgivings of the other rabbis and teachers. Other women had served as spiritual leaders, and a few have even been ordained privately, but Sally Priesand was the first to be ordained publicly by a theological seminary.

Her first positions were as assistant rabbi and then as associate rabbi at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, but she was determined to seek her own pulpit. This proved to be a problem since nine of the twelve synagogues to which she applied rejected her without an interview. She had stated that what she found to be most hurtful was that women congregants were the ones who objected to her the most.

In 1981, Rabbi Priesand found a permanent pulpit at Monmouth Reform Temple in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. There her congregants were very supportive of her through more than one personal crisis, including two bouts of breast cancer.

She decided not to marry or have children in order to devote herself fully to her congregants. She had won many honors and distinctions during her career. Rabbi Priesand retired in 2006, her 25th year as spiritual leader of the Monmouth Reform Temple.

Women rabbis today are an accepted part of Jewish religious life in the United States, and Sally Priesand’s persistence and commitment helped to pave the way.