

SISTERHOOD CORNER—July/August, 2020

Judy Frank, President (judy@tcscorp.com) Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

From the President's Desk...

As we are about to begin the new Sisterhood 2020-2021 year, we are reminded that the Sisterhood Convention—"Sisters Journeying Together" will take place (on Zoom) on Sunday, July 12th from 9 a.m.--5 p.m. I hope you are planning to attend the Virtual Convention 2020. It costs nothing to attend. You can register online. You will be able to attend Convention from the comfort of your own home.

There will be a Social Justice program with speakers Rabbi Cheryl Peretz; Sara Bresnick Tennen-- Executive Director of DC Volunteer Lawyers Project; and Marc Swatez and Rebecca Fletcher of The ARK Chicago. We will meet Chancellor-elect Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz. She will become JTS's first female chancellor in its 134 year history. What an historic moment for JTS, for the Jewish world, and for women in leadership roles.

The Jewels in the Crown winners will be celebrated and our Sisterhood is one of the winners! Sisterhood Training Workshops will be available to join. We will welcome Debbie Kaner Goldich, our new International President, at an Installation Ceremony at this Virtual Convention. The program will conclude with a Celebratory Concert.

On Sunday evening, July 19th there will be a Celebration Party for the Central Great Lakes Region where we will get to chat with Sisterhood women from other states.

An e-blast will be sent to all Sisterhood members as soon as a more detailed schedule of all events and workshops become available with the specific times and links as well as information on the Celebration Party.

I look forward to seeing everyone on ZOOM!

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:

**Miriam Goldberger,
Mickey Gordon, Bobbie Levin,
Esther Manewith
(in honor of our grandchildren),
Ada Rabinowitz and Judi Stein**

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—call the office
at (847)675-4141 to arrange for pick-up.

PROGRAMMING UPDATES!

If you would feel comfortable hosting one of our Sisterhood programs on Zoom, please let me know. I would also like you to let me know what type of programs you would like us to offer through the summer months—and also what time of day you would prefer these programs—morning, afternoon or evening. You can send me an email at: RaynesD@aol.com.

For those of you who do not have a camera on your computer, you can still listen to and participate in the Zoom program by calling the phone number indicated. Please try and be a part of these programs!

Please consider making a donation to the EHNTJC Sisterhood to help cover the cost of some of these programs. Donations can be made in honor of, in memory of, or just to show your appreciation. Checks can be mailed to: EHNTJC Sisterhood at 4500 Dempster Street – Skokie, IL 60076.

Thank you to Bobbie Levin for her generous donation!

Good and Welfare...

- **Mazel Tov** to Veronika Urban on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Zachary.
- **Mazel Tov** to Mickey Gordon on the marriage of her grandson, Zachary Gordon to Gabrielle Ehrens.
- Wishing a **Refuah Shlayma** to Joanne Abelman and Davida Grossman.
- Our condolences to Carol Friedlander on the passing of her brother-in-law, Michael Friedlander.



Our Sisterhood
is affiliated with the Women's
League for Conservative Judaism

***Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also
of the overcoming of it. – Helen Keller***

TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- Thank you to my friends from EHNTJC Sisterhood for your lovely **Leagram** with your birthday wishes ...Diane Rosenfeld.
- Thank you to Esther Berman for her generous donation to MAZON on behalf of our Sisterhood!

Ways & Means

First of all, I am honored and humbled to have been elected to be the Ways & Means Vice-President. I have known many of you for a long time and I am looking forward to meeting more of you and for us to work together to raise money for our wonderful synagogue.

I know that at this trying time for all of us, we can't get into the synagogue and therefore are unable to sell any of the beautiful merchandise we have in the gift shop. (Please keep it in mind in the near future for all your gifts.)

Please remember that we do have the **Leagrams** available year around. Just contact Debbie Reich at dr0615@aol.com.

Again, I look forward to working with all of you.
Stay safe!

Fran Givertz -- Ways & Means V.P.

Welcome to a New Sisterhood Year!!!

by Ada Rabinowitz -- Membership V.P.

In spite of an unusual season due to the Pandemic, we have had wonderful programming and interesting meetings on *Zoom*. Our Culminating Installation event was both inspirational and moving. Our president, Judy Frank, gave a beautiful acceptance speech and Leah Polin, our guest speaker, presented an outstanding program about Jewish women who benefitted the world.

So, now we are starting a new year. We hope that you will support us so that we can continue to present excellent programs and events. If you have sent in your membership dues, we thank you. If you have not yet done so, please respond as quickly as possible. Your membership is very important to our success.

Our opening event will be in September. We look forward to seeing you on *Zoom*. We are stronger for your membership and are grateful to you for your commitment! Thank you!

A **BIG WELCOME** to our new
Sisterhood Members:

Kay Friedman and Jamie Pawlan

What is Really Jewish? by Dr. Esther Javetz -- Education V.P.

When people are looking at customs that seem originally Jewish, some may point to the *Bris* (male circumcision) as an authentic Jewish practice. Well, not true.

Male circumcision was common in ancient Egypt (that influenced our ancestors), but only to the very privileged: princes and priests. Yes, the Egyptian mummies are circumcised.

Also, the naming process of an Egyptian privileged boy was different than the rest of the people. The privileged were called names like: Ra-mes (=the son of the god Ra) or Tchut-mes (= son of the god Tchut). This had a function in the ancient Egypt society; once a prince became a Pharaoh, his name gave him absolute authority.

But Moses' vision was different. He said that the Israelites are going to be "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19,6), so every Jewish boy would be circumcised, and could get a name that refers to G-d (just not too close, like his son).

Names in our Parshah (Shlach) are: Gadi-el (=G-d is my luck); Ami-el (=the nation of G-d); Geu-el (= the salvation of G-d); and you probably heard of: Micha-el (=who is like G-d), Gavri-el (=G-d conquered) and more.

So, what is really authentically Jewish? Royalty customs became requirements for all boys, so **equality** and **preservation of each child** are very Jewish!

TORAH FUND

"We're in this together." "We may be apart but we are all in this together." "We can get through this together." How many times have we heard this over the past three months? We can accomplish our goals while keeping ourselves safe if we all work together. **B'Yachad**, together, the theme for our Torah Fund for 2020-2021 could not be more appropriate right now.

Since 1942 when Torah Fund began, the contributions of thousands of individuals have raised funds to help educate and train each generation of rabbis, cantors, scholars, educators, summer camp directors, chaplains, campus Jewish life staff and committed lay leaders. Our Torah Fund campaign begins in July. While our programs for Torah Fund will be a bit different this year than in the past, we can reach our fundraising goals while enjoying our programs - together. Stay tuned for information on our first Torah Fund program coming this fall.

Stay safe.

Rose-Lynn Jaffe and Evie Lowenthal
Torah Fund Co-chairs