

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation

SISTERHOOD CORNER—May, 2020

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

From the President's Desk...

This is a very challenging time for all of us with the COVID-19 coronavirus health emergency. We are all concerned about the future and look forward to the time when we will be able to resume a normal life. Even though we are all at home social-distancing, there are so many ways we can connect with each other through e-mail, phone calls, Facebook, Facetime and Zoom. This is a great time to reach out to people in our Sisterhood whom you do not talk to on a regular basis.

Women's League has been offering several programs for us, and they have been forwarded to you via e-mail. Our synagogue offers many programs all week long, and our Sisterhood board has also decided to share programs via Zoom or phone. Watch for more information on these upcoming programs.

Sisterhood has cancelled all in-person programs through the end of May. Our installation will be held virtually sometime over the summer. Please watch your emails for the exact date and time.

Please stay safe and healthy. I look forward to seeing everyone in person very soon!

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.
- 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.

Book Suggestions for Summer (or Anytime) Reading

The Third Daughter: A Novel - by Talia Garner

A fictionalized account of a little-known piece of history; the sex trafficking of young Jewish women from Russia to South America in the late 19th century.

The next two are very similar and at the same time very different: two memoirs by well-known Jewish women.....

Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love - by Dani Shapiro

An acclaimed author describes her staggering discovery that she is not biologically related to her father, tracing her efforts to uncover the truth from a half-century web of family secrets to reestablish her sense of identity.

The Color of Love: A Story of a Mixed-Race Jewish Girl - by Marra B. Gad

A Los Angeles-based TV and film producer, with a Jewish background, chronicles her childhood growing up in Chicago. Her story focuses especially on her relationship with her Great Aunt Nette, estranged from the family for 14 years following a racist comment. When the older woman is diagnosed with late-stage Alzheimer's, only Gad is in a position to help.

GIFT SHOP GAB - VOLUME THIRTY-EIGHT

Since the building is closed, no one is able to buy the lovely Judaica and gift items we have. After it reopens, we hope you'll visit the gift shop. Thank you for all your past support.

Marcy Feinberg, Sandi Cowen and Adrienne Tanner
Gift Shop Co-Chairs



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

EHNTJC Sisterhood **2020 - 2021 Slate of Officers and Board of Trustees**

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Torah Fund—Rose-Lynn Jaffe and
 Evelyn Lowenthal

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PROGRAMMING UPDATE!

Sisterhood is planning two special programs in May. We hope you will join us on Tuesday, May 12th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. for **BINGO!** on Zoom. We will 'meet' at 12:45 p.m. with the game beginning promptly at 1:00.

On Tuesday, May 26th, we will follow the same format—but will be playing **JEWISH TRIVIA**. 'Meet' us on Zoom at 12:45 p.m. and join us for the game from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

We will send you instructions for playing the games a few days before each program along with the Zoom call-in and identification numbers. Thanks to Rose-Lynn Jaffe and Ricki Herling for their ideas and assistance with these programs.

Diane Rosenfeld, V.P. Programming

OUR DISTINGUISHED JEWISH WOMEN— PAST AND PRESENT: *Lauren Bacall* by Joanne Stein

Betty Jean Perske was born in New York City in 1924. Her father abandoned the family when she was 10 years old. Her mother sent Betty to dancing school and was supportive of her daughter's interest in acting.

Betty's first break came at 18 when she was crowned *Miss Greenwich Village*. At 19, she became a model and appeared on the cover of '*Harper's Bazaar*' for three months in a row. That brought her to the attention of Hollywood and director Howard Hawks.

He had her come to the West Coast and assured her family the young Betty would be well looked after—staying with him and his wife. They both moulded her into an actress and changed her name. The Hawks chose her to play opposite Humphrey Bogart in '*To Have and Have Not*'.

The two fell in love and Bogart, then 45, divorced his third wife to marry the 21-year old, now known as Lauren Bacall. The couple had two children and were very happy together until Bogart's death from cancer in 1957.

In her autobiography, '*Lauren Bacall by Herself*', she states that Bogie was too old for her and that "he drank, he was an actor and he was a goy", but that "no one has ever written a romance better than we lived it".

After her husband's death, she had a romance with Frank Sinatra, and was then married to Jason Robards from 1961 to 1969.

In addition to her many movie roles, Lauren Bacall appeared on Broadway and won Tony Awards for '*Applause*' and '*Women of the Year*'.

Lauren Bacall had a long and distinguished career. She always referred to herself as "just a nice Jewish girl from New York" and was proud of her Jewish identity. She died in August, 2014—one month before her 90th birthday.

*The election and installation of our
 2020 – 2021 Sisterhood Board
 will take place "virtually" in the near
 future. Details to follow.*

Carol Straus
 Nominating Committee Chair

Good and Welfare...

- **Condolences** to the Dishkin Family on the passing of Harriet Dishkin.
- **Condolences** to Cantor Daniel Gale on the passing of his mother, Davida Gale.
- **Condolences** to Renée Repkin on the passing of her sister, Joan Anita Schwartz.
- **Condolences** to Mickey Gordon on the passing of her brother-in-law, Earl Gordon.
- **Condolences** to Debbie Dragon on the passing of her father, Harold Greenberg.
- **Condolences** to Dorette Klein on the passing of her sister, Myriam Gordon.
- **Condolences** to Flora Steigman on the passing of her husband, Martin.
- Wishing a **Refuah Shlayma** to Davida Grossman.

TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- *Todah Rabah* for the good birthday wishes.....Fran Givertz.
- Many, many thanks for the overwhelming *Leagram* wishes in honor of my birthday. So thoughtful and considerate of each of you.....Mickey Gordon.
- Thank you to Marcy Feinberg for her generous donation to Sisterhood with Passover good wishes!
- Thank you to Judy Arkin for her kind donation to Sisterhood with thanks to Francine Schulman for making masks for the community.



Torah Fund 5780

Over six weeks ago we fell asleep in one world and woke up in another. And yet most of what we cherish is still with us - friendship, family, love and compassion. We have found ways to do things together (remember when *Zoom* meant moving fast), ways to connect without physical contact, and ways to contribute to our philanthropies as we reach out to help others.

The Torah Fund is the philanthropy of the Women's League of Conservative Judaism, of which our Sisterhood is a part. Each year a theme is chosen for the Torah Fund campaign. As you all know, the theme this year is **Chesed** – kindness – one of the three central pillars of Jewish life. As is written in Pirkei Avot "The world rests on three things, Torah, service to God and deeds of Loving Kindness." **Loving kindness** - Something that our Sisterhood has in abundance.

The money we raised for Torah Fund this year exceeded our annual goal. Thank you to all who donated to help us help the students in all five of our seminaries. We look to the future as we continue our work helping others. Stay healthy – stay safe.

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

A Piece of History that Continues to Affect Us...

by Dr. Esther Javetz

After the death of King Solomon, the Jewish state has split into two kingdoms: Israel (with 10 tribes) and Judah (with 2 tribes). The two kingdoms had sometimes good relationships and sometimes were adversaries and joined coalitions of different countries.

In approximately 722 BCE Assyrians captured the Northern Kingdom, Israel, and exiled most of the population. Some people from Israel were able to move to Judah with the blessing of the local king. The Kingdom of Judah continued to exist in some form for about 800 years more (with a break of 70 years of Babylonian exile) until the Roman destruction (70 CE).

Most formal Jews today are descendants of the Kingdom of Judah. However, in 1948 when Ben Gurion got the chance to name the new Jewish state, he chose the name Israel (which was the name of Jacob, the father of the 12 sons). It seems that he did not want to close the door for descendants of the Northern Kingdom, if they are going to be found.

Since the establishment of the State of Israel until now, there are researchers and rabbinical authorities who have examined remote communities carrying Hebrew names and Jewish practices. Some communities were determined to be Jewish and given assistance to immigrate to Israel. Few examples: **Beta Israel of Ethiopia** ("House of Israel") believed to be descendants of the tribe Dan, (one of the 10 lost tribes), had a rabbinic ruling that they were Jews and were brought to Israel. **Bene Israel** is a group from India and in 1964, Israeli Rabbinate ruled that they are "full Jews in every respect," and today they live mainly in Beersheba and Ramla.

The State of Israel is true to its mission to collect all scattered pieces of the Jewish people!

Where flowers bloom
so does hope...

Lady Bird Johnson

