Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation

SISTERHOOD CORNER—October, 2020
Judy Frank, President (judy@tcscorp.com)  Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

From the President’s Desk...
This is a bittersweet time for all of us. In the midst of celebrating the High Holidays and the New Year 5781, the pandemic has made it difficult to be with our family and friends. We are not able to worship together in the synagogue—which has been very unusual. But thanks to modern technology, many of us will be together on ZOOM sharing the holidays with each other.

The pandemic has taught us what is in our control and what is not. We can only control our reaction—feeling anger or compassion. After Simchat Torah we begin reading Bereshit (Genesis) which is about chesed, or lovingkindness. Acts of lovingkindness are the way we treat others; the doing of justice, and rightousness are the way we would want others to treat us. There are two different virtues—acts of loving-kindness and charity. Charity is the Jewish obligation to give tzedakah. Lovingkindness is when a person gives of his time and self as well as giving charity. Lovingkindness is greater than charity because it can be given to the rich and poor alike.

Please join us in October for two special events. On the 7th, we have a very informative program from the League of Women Voters of Wilmette—“Vote 2020”—in preparation of the upcoming election. And on the 21st, a special presentation by members of JCAST (Jewish Community Against Sex Trafficking). Flyers are attached.

La Shana Tova U’metukah! May you have a joyous, good, healthy and sweet 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:
Joan Cook (in honor of Matthew Harrison Kaplan’s and Sheri Lynn Dressler’s birthday)
Miriam Goldberger (in honor of Carolyn receiving her Master’s Degree and Justin & Tori’s engagement),
Mickey Gordon, Bobbie Levin,
Esther Manewith (in honor of our grandchildren),
Dori Marks (in honor of grandson Charlie’s Bar Mitzvah)
Ada Rabinowitz, and Judi Stein

If you have news to share, contact Judy Arkin at kjarkin99@comcast.net.

Taffy Apple Giveaway
To celebrate Simchat Torah, Sisterhood will be giving away taffy apples (no nuts) on Friday, October 9th from 10 a.m. – 12 noon in the west side of the synagogue parking lot. Maximum two apples per car.

Chag Sameach!

Our next BOOK CLUB will be Wednesday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. via ZOOM
“The Last Watchman of Old Cairo” by Michael David Lukas

Joseph, a literature student at Berkeley, is the son of a Jewish mother and a Muslim father. One day, a mysterious package arrives on his doorstep, pulling him into a mesmerizing adventure to uncover the tangled history that binds the two sides of his family.

For generations, the men of the al-Raqb family have served as watchmen of the storied Ibn Ezra Synagogue in Old Cairo, built at the site where the infant Moses was taken from the Nile. Joseph learns of his ancestor Ali, a Muslim orphan who nearly a thousand years earlier was entrusted as the first watchman of the synagogue and became enchanted by its legendary—perhaps magical—Ezra Scroll.

The story of Joseph’s family is entwined with that of the British twin sisters Agnes and Margaret, who in 1897 depart their hallowed Cambridge halls on a mission to rescue sacred texts that have begun to disappear from the synagogue.

Please join us for a lively discussion!
Book Club Co-Chairs
Elaine Lampert  (847)537-1240
Linda Ehrensaft  (847)991-2657
Good and Welfare...

- **Mazel Tov** to Joan Cook on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Harper Olivia Hobson.
- **Mazel Tov** to Rose-Lynn Jaffe on the birth of her granddaughter, Isabel Teresa Jaffe.
- **Mazel Tov** to Ronia Gross on the birth of her granddaughter, Mazarine Susan Gross.
- **Mazel Tov** to Sally Brown-Winter on the birth of her grandson, Owen Levi Cooper.
- **Mazel Tov** to Miffie Nagorsky on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Samuel Nagorsky.

TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- Thank you to Miffie Nagorsky for her kind donation in honor of her grandson, Samuel Nagorsky’s Bar Mitzvah and for being grateful for Sy’s speedy recovery.
- Thank you to Leah Lazere and Janet Keiser for their generous donation to our Sisterhood.

Target Cards for JCFS Hanukkah Collection by Ricki Herling, Social Action VP

We will again be collecting Target gift cards for JCFS. For your convenience, I will be happy to purchase them for you. Just send your check (payable to EHNTJC Sisterhood) to the synagogue with ‘JCFS Target’ in the memo line and I will purchase and deliver them.

Checks must be received by November 25th. Thank you in advance!

PROGRAMMING UPDATES by Diane Rosenfeld, Programming VP

Save the dates for these upcoming programs:
- October 7th - speakers from the League of Women Voters (flyer attached)
- October 21st - JCAST (Jewish Coalition Against Sex Trafficking) – PART 1 (flyer attached)
- November 4th - Book & Author Event- Talia Carner – author of “The Third Daughter” which chronicles the sex trafficking of a young Jewish girl from Russia in the late 1800’s – PART 2 (flyer enclosed)
- December 2nd - Chanukah Party with entertainment by our own Cantor Daniel Gale

Social Distancing at Devonshire Park

Please join us on Monday, October 5th to social distance at Devonshire Park in Skokie. Make sure to bring a lunch or snack, a chair, and of course, your mask. We will meet at noon at the section of the park near Kostner and Greenwood. If interested, please RSVP to Diane Rosenfeld at: raynesd@aol.com.

What a Wonderful Beginning!
by Ada Rabinowitz, Membership VP

This has been an extraordinary time for all of us. We were forced to discover new and creative ways to communicate and socialize. Our Sisterhood has reached out to all of us and has created and sponsored entertaining and informative programs on ZOOM. We are thrilled that so many of our members participated and enjoyed these endeavors. We promise to continue these exciting and interesting programs as we begin another year.

Your membership counts! If you have renewed your membership, WE THANK YOU! But if you have not paid your dues yet, please take a moment to do so. Your membership is important to the success of Sisterhood. Our members are the heart of our organization. We appreciate your commitment!

I look forward to seeing you on ZOOM! So join in the fun and enjoy our wonderful events and programs.

Best wishes and a very Happy New Year!

A BIG WELCOME to our new Sisterhood Members:

Karyn Abrams
Jackie Billings Lauwasser

APPLE CRISP by Francine Schulman

4 medium tart cooking apples (I use Granny Smith) pared and sliced—about 4 cups
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
½ cup all-purpose flour
½ cup quick or old-fashioned oats
½ cup brown sugar
¼ tsp. cinnamon
2 Tbsp. margarine or butter

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Mix apples and lemon juice. Place into a 9”x13” pan. Mix flour, sugar, margarine and cinnamon with a fork or food processor until crumbly. Sprinkle over apples. Bake uncovered until the topping is golden brown and apples are tender (about 25 – 30 minutes).

Enjoy!
EDUCATION CORNER  
by Gloriann Levy, Education Committee

The 7th month of the Hebrew calendar, Tishrei, is the month most filled with Jewish holidays. The holidays range from contemplation and repentance to joyous harvest and rejoicing with the Torah. It also contains two Fast days – “Tzom Gedalliah” and “Yom Kippur” - and two days of Yizkor- “Yom Kippur” and “Shemini Atzeret”.

The Holiday of Sukkot begins on the eve of Friday, October 2nd and ends on Sunday, October 11th with Simchat Torah. These nine days encompass three holidays—Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

Sukkot is both a historical and agricultural holiday. Historically, it represents the journey of Israel through the desert after the exodus from Egypt. During that time, the people lived in impermanent booths (sukkot). Agriculturally, the Holiday celebrates the final gathering of the fruit and produce of the year. It is also called “Chag Ha’asif”, the Holiday of the Ingathering. Sukkot is also one of the three Pilgrimage Festivals (Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot) when the people brought their harvest to the Temple in Jerusalem. The Holiday is symbolized by the “Sukkah” (temporary dwelling) and the “Lulav and Etrog.” The Lulav (palm branch) is bound together with two willow twigs and three myrtle twigs. The fourth plant is the “Etrog” (citron) which looks like a lemon.

The 8th day of the Holiday is known as Shemini Atzeret. Its major theme is the prayer for rain. The holiday coincides with the beginning of the State of Israel’s rainy season. The holiday binds the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. It is also “Yizkor,” the remembrance of our loved ones who have passed away.

Simchat Torah falls on the 9th day of the Holiday. It marks the completion of the annual cycle of the weekly reading of the Torah and is one of the most joyous of Jewish Holidays. On Simchat Torah, Jews all around the world finish reading the last verse of the Book of Deuteronomy and immediately start the cycle over again by reciting the first verse of Genesis. The Holiday is celebrated with “Hakafot” (marching around the Torahs) and dancing with the Torahs.

The fall holidays end on a joyous note of hope and continuity for the New Year! During this difficult time of COVID-19, the Holidays lift our spirits and bring us joy and continued hope for a better tomorrow!

FUNDRAISING CORNER  
by Fran Givertz, Ways & Means VP

The Ways & Means Committee is always busy working on ideas on how we can continue to raise money for our wonderful Sisterhood and synagogue. Another great way is by buying our Tribute cards. The Chai cards are 6 for $18. The smaller Tribute cards are 8 for $10. You can see below how beautiful they really are! The cards are available in the synagogue office—just call (847)675-4141 to arrange for pick-up.

In an upcoming bulletin, we will be featuring ads from some of our past Holiday Boutique vendors. Since we can't have a live boutique this year, we would like to give our members an opportunity to contact our vendors. Also, if any of our synagogue or Sisterhood members are making and selling items for the holidays and would like to advertise, please send us a business card size ad along with a check for $25.00. Make the check payable to the EHNTJC Sisterhood and highlight “Holiday Ad”.

Questions?—call Fran Givertz at (847)677-3616.

Tribute Card

CHAI Card

NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS FACED CAN BE CHANGED. BUT NOTHING CAN BE CHANGED UNTIL IT IS FACED.

James Baldwin

Our Sisterhood is an affiliate of WOMEN’S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM
Join us for a very informative program from the League of Women Voters of Wilmette (LWV-W) presented by their Co-Presidents Cindy Levine and Wendy Zun

We’ll learn about –
- √ the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment and some of the Jewish women who took part in it
- √ in-person, mail-in and early voting options
- √ drop boxes for November election
- √ fair tax amendment on the ballot
- √ submit your questions to Diane Rosenfeld at raynesd@aol.com by October 2nd

Wednesday—October 7th, 2020 ■ 1:00 p.m. on Zoom (link to follow)

Please join us for this special presentation by Cathy Carmody and Gayle L. Nelson from

JCAST
Jewish Community Against Sex Trafficking
CHICAGO

Did you know that in the Chicago area alone, more than 16,000 local women and girls are “sex trafficked” on any given day?
Learn how to start the conversation with your children and grandchildren.

◆ please submit your questions to Diane Rosenfeld at raynesd@aol.com by October 18th◆

Wednesday—October 21st, 2020 ◆ 7:30 p.m. on Zoom (link to follow)

We hope we can count on your support for our continued programming.
If you would like to make a donation to Sisterhood, it would be appreciated!

Please mail to:
EHNTJC SISTERHOOD PROGRAMMING
4500 Dempster Street   Skokie, IL 60076