

Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation

## **SISTERHOOD CORNER—January, 2021**

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

### ***From the President's Desk...***

As we look forward to the year 2021, we are all looking towards a year of HOPE.

There are many things to HOPE for in the New Year. Of course, the number one thing on everyone's mind is that we can all get the vaccine as soon as possible so we can move forward with our lives. We HOPE we can transition forward to a normal life and the world will be a healthier place to live. We HOPE that America can be a country of diversity. We, the people, need to be inspired and have HOPE to come together when we all stand together under one nation, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

I look forward to our program on January 6<sup>th</sup> when documentary maker, Beverly Siegel, will offer us a special presentation entitled "Back to the Future in West Rogers Park." We will watch her 25-minute documentary film and then discuss the changes being fueled by Jewish activists today.

Wishing everyone a "HOPEFUL YEAR" in 2021!

*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 the birthday of grandson**

**Andrew Kaplan),**

**Miriam Goldberger,**

**Mickey Gordon, Bobbie Levin,**

**Esther Manewith**

**(in honor of our grandchildren),**

**Dori Marks, Carla Price, Ada Rabinowitz  
and Judi Stein**

If you have any news to share, please email

[kjarkin99@comcast.net](mailto:kjarkin99@comcast.net).

**Our next BOOK CLUB will be  
Wednesday, February 17th  
at 10:30 am via Zoom**

### ***"Other People's Pets"* by R.L. Maizes**

La La Fine relates to animals better than she does to other people. Abandoned by a mother who never wanted a family, raised by a locksmith-turned-thief father, La La looks to pets when it feels like the rest of the world conspires against her.

As an animal empath, she rationalizes her theft by focusing on houses with pets whose maladies only she can sense and caring for them before leaving with the family's valuables. The news reports a puzzled police force—searching for a thief who left behind medicine for the dog, water for the parrot, or food for the hamster.

"Other People's Pets" examines the gap between the families we're born into and those we create, and the danger that holding on to a troubled past may rob us of the future.

**Author R.L. (Rachael) Maizes will be joining us as we discuss her book. Rachael likes to hear what we all have to say and think about her characters in this novel. Please write down your thoughts and be ready to share and discuss.**

**Wednesday - April 21st  
"Have You Seen Luis Velez?"  
by Catherine Ryan Hyde.**

**Wednesday - June 16th  
"Henna House"  
by Nomi Eve**

**Book Club Co-Chairs**

Elaine Lampert (847)537-1240  
Linda Ehrensaft (847)991-2657

Our *Sisterhood* is an affiliate of



***"To make a difference in  
someone's life, you don't  
have to be brilliant, rich,  
beautiful or perfect.  
You just have to care."***

Charles Schultz



## Good and Welfare...

- Wishing a **Refuah Shlayma** to Esther Rubin, Debbie Groman, Ruth Fingerman and Evie Ruebner.
- Our condolences to Francine Schulman on the passing of her mother-in-law, Lorraine Schulman.
- Our condolences to Mickey Gordon on the passing of her beloved niece, Cynthia Nachsin.
- Our condolences to Vivian Baizer on the passing of her husband, Maynard.
- Our condolences to the family of Sisterhood member, Tamar Farkas.
- Our condolences to Rose-Lynn Jaffe on the passing of her mother, Ceil Pfefferman.

### TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- Thank you to Goldie Brandhandler for her generous donation to our Sisterhood with thanks for the Chanukah surprises and greeting.
- Thank you to Glenda Elam and Diane Rosenfeld who recently made donations to our Sisterhood programming!

### Purim and Charity

by Ricki Herling,  
Social Action/Tikkun Olam VP

On Purim we are commanded to give gifts of food and charity to the poor, *mishloach manot* and *matanot l'evyoni*. This year is especially difficult for those who suffer from food insecurity.

We in Sisterhood would like to make a donation to The Ark in honor of this mitzvah and hope that those of you who are able to, can contribute towards this donation. We will combine them all into what we hope will be a sizeable donation.

Please make your checks payable to  
EHNTJC Sisterhood  
and send them to the synagogue  
by February 17<sup>th</sup>.

### FUNDRAISING CORNER

by Fran Givertz, Ways & Means VP

I would like to thank all of you who supported our holiday vendors. They were nice enough to place ads and we appreciate that!

There are many ways you can support our Sisterhood in the coming year—an outright contribution, purchasing our tribute cards and sending Leagrams. Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated and support the fine works of our Sisterhood.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year—stay safe!

## WE BELIEVE IN FAMILY!

by Ada Rabinowitz, Membership VP

The Sisterhood of EHNTJC is a family of sisters. Even during these difficult times we stuck together. Our friendships grew and became stronger. We Zoomed together, sang together, learned together, rejoiced together and yes, even mourned together. Our bond is even stronger as we lived through these days of uncertainty.

I am grateful to you for your support and continued membership. We have all made a difference in each other's lives. I thank you for staying the course. Our Sisterhood is stronger for your support. We appreciate your renewed commitment. If you have not paid your dues, it is never too late!

Best Wishes! It is my hope that 2021 will bring us peace, good health and joy!

## A BIG WELCOME to our newest Sisterhood Member:

Gail Rotheiser

## PROGRAMMING UPDATES

by Diane Rosenfeld, Programming VP

### Save these Dates!

**Wednesday, January 6th-** screening of  
“Driving West Rogers Park: Chicago's Once  
and Future Jewish Neighborhood”

Meet with documentary maker Beverly Siegel who will share behind the scenes insights into the making of the film, and Sisterhood member, Judy Kroichik Harris, who is featured in the film.

**Wednesday, February 3rd –** Sisterhood member, Paulette Levy, will describe her award winning artwork to us...

**SEE FLYER ON BACK PAGE!**

## KOFFEE KLATCH

Please join us on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> for our next Sisterhood **Koffee Klatch**. Catch up with friends, let us know what you are doing to stay busy and engaged, and share your thoughts! A Zoom link will be sent a day or so before the meeting.....



## EDUCATION CORNER

by Evie Lowenthal

*Tu B'Shvat* or *Hamishah Asar BiShvat*, the fifteenth day of *Shvat*, is also known as *Rosh HaShanah Lallanot*, the New Year for Trees. The holiday marks the first day of spring in *Eretz Yisrael* and occurs six weeks after *Chanukah*. Since ancient times, the Jewish people have observed by eating fruit grown in *Eretz Yisrael*. After the Romans destroyed the Holy Temple in 70 CE, the people were no longer able to bring tithes to the Temple. Scattered to the four corners of the earth, Jews began eating dried fruit on *Tu B'Shvat* in remembrance of tithing and the free, independent life which they had led in Israel.

Since the restoration of the Jewish homeland, *Tu B'Shvat* has gained new significance as Arbor Day, observed by planting trees. In Israel, trees are regarded as a special gift of God. There are many allusions to trees in the Bible, especially to the olive tree, which sends up new shoots to continue to the life of the old day that dies, and the almond tree, which is the first to bloom in the spring.

Trees are represented as symbols of goodness and nobility. The upright person is compared to a tree planted near a stream that bears fruit in due season with leaves that never fade (Psalm 1:3). "The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow mighty like a cedar in Lebanon." (Psalm 93 13-14).

On *Tu B'Shvat*, we celebrate the untreatable bonds between Jews everywhere and the land of Israel. And we must remember that God gave us a world, but it is our job to preserve it for future generations.



## Torah Fund

*B'Yachad* – As we know, cases of COVID are on the rise and schools that were

beginning to plan in-classroom learning are back to online classes. Dorms are closed but JTS in New York is allowing students who live in the area limited access to the campus. Of course, anyone coming on campus must follow the CDC guidelines. AJU in LA has, following the law in California, shut down the campus. All classes are being held virtually. Students are continuing to learn – money is still needed. Our Women's League Torah Fund is helping these students but more funds are needed. To all of you who have donated this year – thank you. If you have not yet donated, a donation will be very much appreciated. Just make your check to Torah Fund and send it to the EHNTJC office – 4500 Dempster Street, Skokie 60076.

And then – **Save the Date** for our special Torah Fund Program on March 3rd at 1:00 p.m. Detailed information will be sent in a few weeks.

Stay safe – stay healthy.

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



Now that winter's here, it's time to enjoy a hot bowl of soup.

Share a favorite recipe and we'll include them in next month's bulletin!

Please send to Judy Frank at [judy@tcscorp.com](mailto:judy@tcscorp.com) by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

THE *Sisterhood*  
of EZRA-HABONIM, THE NILES TOWNSHIP JEWISH CONGREGATION

*an affiliate of*



WOMEN'S LEAGUE  
FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

**Please join us for this special presentation  
by Paulette Levy  
as she shares her artwork with us!**

Paulette is a juried artist in Oakton Community College's Women's Exhibition and is a member of the American Jewish Artist's Club.

She does original mandala-like drawings that create her circles of belief.

This allows her designs to tell a never-ending story!

She will discuss her digital process and how she became drawn to this type of art.

Some of her pieces will be available for sale!

**DATE:** Wednesday—February 3rd, 2021

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m. on ZOOM  
(link opens at 12:45 p.m.)

**COST:** Donations to offset program costs are always appreciated!

PLEASE CLIP FORM BELOW AND RETURN BY JANUARY 31st



**EHNTJC Sisterhood *Art Presentation by Paulette Levy***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*E-mail address required to receive ZOOM link (link will be sent out on February 1st)*

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to support Sisterhood programming with a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot attend but want to support Sisterhood programming \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to: EHNTJC SISTERHOOD ■ 4500 Dempster Street ■ Skokie, IL 60076**

*Judy Frank (847)677-4950  
Sisterhood President*

*Diane Rosenfeld (847)674-5651  
Programming V.P.*