

SISTERHOOD CORNER—January, 2022

Diane Rosenfeld, President (raynesd@aol.com) Judy Arkin, Editor (kjarkin99@comcast.net)

From the President's Desk...

We have a great array of programs for 2022. Our January and February programs will be held on Zoom to allow participation by our members who are away for the winter. By this time, I hope that you have already registered for our January 5th program, "Chicago's Newest Murals." On January 19th, we will have our next book review, "The Color of Love" by Marra B. Gad.

The holiday of Tu B'shvat will be observed this year on January 17th. Tu B'shvat is the New Year of the Trees, and school children in Israel go into the forests and plant new saplings on this day. Outdoor planting cannot be done in our cold climate. But, we can celebrate Tu B'shvat by donating to tree planting causes like the Jewish National Fund, eating a variety of fruit associated with Israel, or by volunteering. Because this year Tu B'shvat aligns exactly with Martin Luther King Day, it is good to focus on service projects, especially those that have an environmental focus. Please join me at the Women's League Tu B'shvat Seder on Thursday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m. CT. (See the Women's League December 15th e-mail for details or contact me for more information.)

Our February program is a highlights tour of the new ANU, Museum of the Jewish People. Located on the campus of Tel Aviv University, formerly The Museum of the Diaspora, the museum has been greatly expanded. It is now the largest Jewish museum in the world! It represents all parts of the Jewish people and highlights the creative works and cultural riches of a variety of communities in different periods of history (flyer enclosed).

Our membership team is completing our campaign. If you have not yet paid your dues (\$36), please do so as soon as possible so that you can take advantage of our wonderful programs. Please also encourage your family and friends to join our Sisterhood.

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy 2022!.....Diane Rosenfeld

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:

Esther Berman

(with deep gratitude to everyone for their kindness and continuous support during Roger's recovery),

Joan Cook

(in honor of the birthday of my grandson, Andrew Kaplan),

Fran Givertz

(in memory of my mother, Andriana Fotinos and in honor of the birthdays of Bonnie Boehm and my nephew, Andrew),

Miriam Goldberger,

Mickey Gordon

(in honor of my grandchildren),

Bobbie Levin,

Esther Manewith

(in honor of our grandchildren),

Dori Marks, Ada Rabinowitz,

Diane Rosenfeld

(in honor of nephew David and grandchildren Josh, Avi, Zev, Ella, Max, Lexi, Jake and Ryan),

Judi Stein and Dolly Zavell

Good and Welfare...

- **Condolences** to Linda Ehrensaft on the passing of her husband, Don.
- **Condolences** to Paulette Levy on the passing of her husband, Julian.
- Wishing a **Refuah Shlayma** to Goldie Brandhandler.

TODAH RABAH • תודה רבה • THANK YOU

- Thanks to all who have made donations in support of our Sisterhood programming!
- Special thanks to some of our Chanukah raffle winners for their kind donations to our Sisterhood!
- Thank you to Susan Kaplan-Toch for her generous donation to Sisterhood in honor of her granddaughter, Elle Levy.

SAVE THE DATE

by Judy Arkin - Programming V.P.

Wednesday, January 5th @ 1:00 p.m.

Chicago's Newest Murals

Wednesday, February 2nd @ 1:00 p.m.

ANU Museum in Tel Aviv

Both programs will be on Zoom!

**A BIG WELCOME to our new
Sisterhood Members:
Marilyn Chiappe and Irene Walanka**

EDUCATION CORNER

Tu B'Shvat

(= *Rosh Hashanah for the Trees*)

by Dr. Esther Javetz - Education V.P.

The name of the holiday means the fifteenth of Shvat (the 5th month in the Jewish calendar). All Jewish holidays were planned for the land of Israel, so they look weird in other countries. In the northern hemisphere, it is winter (snow and rain) and in the southern hemisphere, it is mid-summer (hot sun), so are those good planting seasons? No. But in the Middle East it is!

In Israel it is a rainy season, but with sunny days in between. There are good planting days, and after planting, one can expect rainy days to nourish the new baby trees.

Customs of Tu B'Shvat:

There are various customs around eating fruits, but one of the common ones is eating the 7 species that are indigenous to Israel. They are eaten in the following order: Wheat (could be cake); Barley (could be beer); Olives; Dates; Grapes; Figs; Pomegranates.

Why in this order? Because we take the fruit of one kernel to fruit more and more kernels.

Mystical Interpretations:

Throughout history, all holidays received more and more layers of interpretations. Tu B'Shvat is a holiday during the rainy season; well water is a metaphor to the Torah; the way the water is nourishing the little trees step by step until they become mature trees which bear fruit. The same is learning, which is step by step accumulating and creating a knowledgeable adult. The tree is a metaphor to an adult person (in the Bible: Ki Ha-Adam Etz Hasade).

**Our next BOOK CLUB will be on
Wednesday, January 19th at 10:30 a.m.
on ZOOM to discuss**

***"The Color of Love"* by Marra B. Gad**

Winner of the 2020 Midwest Book Award in Autobiography/Memoir, *The Color of Love*, by Marra B. Gad, recounts the journey of a mixed-race Jewish woman from adoption and prejudice to helping the members of her extended family who once shunned her.

Marra B. Gad's biological parents were a black man and a white, Jewish woman. In 1970, at three days old, she was adopted by a white, Jewish family in Chicago. For them, it was love at first sight—but the world was not ready for a family like theirs. In black spaces, Marra was considered "not black

enough" and encountered anti-semitism. In Jewish spaces, she was mistaken for the help, asked to leave, or worse. She even faced racism within her own family.

Marra's family cut ties with relatives who refused to accept her—including her once beloved and glamorous Great-Aunt Nette, who was like a "third-parent" to Marra's mother. But after 15 years of estrangement, Marra discovered that Nette had Alzheimer's, and that she was the only one able to reunite Nette with her family. Instead of revenge, Marra chose love, and watched as the disease erased her aunt's racism, making space for a relationship that was never possible before.

The Color of Love explores the idea of *yerusha*, which means "inheritance" in Yiddish, such an important concept that it was the original title of the book. At times heart-wrenching and heartwarming, this is a story about what you inherit from your family—identity, disease, melanin, hate, and most powerful of all, love.

We hope you will join us for a lively discussion!

Book Club Co-Chairs

Elaine Lampert (847)537-1240

Carol Gottlieb (847)501-1896

NEXT UP: Wednesday, March 16th

The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict
(FYI...this is historical fiction about Hedy Lamar)



Torah Fund 5782

by Rose-Lynn Jaffe –
Torah Fund V.P.

Torah Fund celebrates its 80th anniversary this year. In Perkei Avot, it is written that 80 is the age of strength. The strength of Torah Fund comes from the wisdom and experience of the leaders of Women's League and sisterhoods like us. Over the years, the funds raised helped support the training of professionals at the Conservative/Masorti seminaries. Residence halls were built, a library room was transformed into the Women's League Seminary Synagogue and special scholarship projects were launched. For 80 years, we, the women of Conservative Synagogues, have used our wisdom and understanding to raise the funds to support these future professional leaders. I am proud to say that our sisterhood has been a strong partner in this fundraising.

Thanks to everyone who continues to support

Torah Fund!

Our *Sisterhood* is an affiliate of



WOMEN'S LEAGUE
FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM